勇者様のお師匠様
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Yuusha-sama no Oshishou-sama - WN Chapter 01-24

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A

Translation Corner

Hello Guys, it's Guro!

It just like I had promised, I brought you guys part 1 of chapter 1 of Yuusha-sama no Oshishou-sama.

Enjoy!

The Boy who Aims to be a Knight

On the western part of Alfana[1] continent stood a large nation, the Remulshil[2] Empire.

In the location that faced the main street of Imperial Capital Shimurg[3], was a small inn called 『Migratory Bird's Mistletoe[4]』 that was frequented by rowdy customers such as peddlers and adventurers.

With its first floor also served as bar, it just an inn that could be found at anywhere else.

At this place was a five year old boy, named Wynn Bard who was excitedly watching the outside spectacle from the window that faced the Main Street.

「Wow~, So cool~」

Armor that shined silvery white, steel long sword that was carried on the waist, and also a shield from the same steel on the back.

On the chest was etched with Coat of Arms of the Empire's Knight Order, an emblem picturing a double headed lion.

Since Wynn was still a child, he didn't really understand, but the Knights

were returned from subjugation mission from a forest near the empire's border that was overwhelmed by a swarm of monsters.

To saw the knights' gallant figure as they made their triumphant return to the Imperial Capital, countless citizens were lined up on both side of the Main Street.

Of course the front of『Migrant Bird's Mistletoe』 was also not that different, there also numerous people had lined up on the other window. And Wynn was only able to see the figure of the knights from the gaps of people —

「Wynn! Don't slack off!」

So Hanna the proprietress of this inn shouted.

She turns around and she stops the hand she uses to write on the ledger while glaring at Wynn.

「I, I'm very sorry.」

Wynn get off from the table which strong point of it is its sturdy enough to be climbed, he return to his work of polishing the tableware such as forks and spoons that have been spread around.

He polishes them that have been used till they turns muddy with a cloth thoroughly.

「When that over, draws the water next! It's busy today, don't slack off. You useless slacker[5]!」

Wynn had lost his parents.

His parents, who were peddler, entrusted Wynn to the owner of this inn who was their close friend, then they lost their lives en route their travel

when they were attacked by bandit.

It wasn't an unusual thing in this age.

Though he becomes an orphan, fortunately with the excellent amount of money his parents pay before travelling, the child who still five years old of the inn owner close friend can't be thrown out, so Wynn was allowed to work.

However, he was never spoiled.

Hanna who was the wife of the owner of the inn, turns her job to Wynn when a visitor came, Wynn was overworked.

For the cheapskate Hanna, a five years old child who still can't become a workforce, will only cost large amount of money for his food expense and the other things, and become a good for nothing.

Still, it might be better that than being thrown out.

There are a lot numbers of children that becomes orphan and die. Also, there is slave dealer that selling child too.

However, the current situation might be equal to a slave or other people, but at least the owner of this Inn paid a salary for Wynn. Though it no more than an amount of sparrow tears[6].

「Nee, Hanna-obasan.」

While polishing the spoon, Wynn called Hanna timidly.

「To become a Knight, what should I do?」

「Ah? Becoming a Knight?」

Although Wynn was scared of Hanna, he can't suppressed his interest

for the Knight after he saw their gallant figure from the gap of the crowds

「If you want to be a Knight you must enters the school in this Empire. You need knowledge and education, and you need to learn martial arts and magic.」

「How do you enter the school?」

「You need to study and pay the entrance fee.」

「Fuuun....School, huh?」

When her hand that writing on the ledger stopped, she saw Wynn's eyes sparkling.

Just as usual he works silently as ordered, but it's unusual for Wynn who been called as the unsociable child to have a smile that is suitable for his age.

However, it didn't matter for Hanna.

「Hey, you can't stop your hand. Because you still need to draw the water next.」

「A, u.....」

「Also, because the enrolment fee is high. Though you are employed in here, you don't have any money to let you go to the school! 」

When he finishes polishing the spoon, Wynn went to the public well while carrying a bucket.
Drawing the water is a hard labor for a five years old child.

To fill the water jug on the back of the inn, he must do many round trip.

「Aren't you don't have enough time because you are slacking? If you don't finish drawing the water until the evening, you don't get any food!」

Wynn went outside from the backdoor of the inn in silence.

—— In the『Migratory Bird's Mistletoe』parlor not only provide alcohol and meal for the guest, at the evening the first floor bar seats was fully occupied

Wynn still pondering about Knights while washing the plates in the washing place in the kitchen.

(School..... How much money I must save before I can enter.....)

Clang!

「A.....」

Slipping from his hands, the plate split into two——If a five year old child is thinking about another thing while washing the plate, it will becomes like this.

「What are you doing! That plate's price will be subtracted from your salary you know!」

Wynn's small body twitched because Hana's angry voice while he is squatting down and collecting the broken pieces.

「What's happened, Wynn? Is there injury?」

The owner of this Inn, Rendell noticed that Wynn was absentminded since a while ago.

This boy who was the orphan of his close friend, he didn't selfish even when he was young and could be said as an intelligent child.

Well, it was pity that he was bluntly treated by Hannah, however from Rendell's standpoint, as a child who lost his parent less than three month ago and despite want to be spoiled and want to play, he must did bitter work day after day.

Although it was painful to treat his best friend orphan like this, but although『Migratory Bird's Mistletoe』 could be called prosperous, it didn't mean that their business condition had room to spare.

Well, Hannah was dissatisfied with Rendell's arbitrary decision to look after the child, so he decided Wynn to work.

That's why, Rendell paid attention on Wynn's daily work. Even if he just a child, Wynn was concentrating on his job, but today he noticed that Wynn was unusually distracted.

「Did something happen?」

「Yes, I saw the Knights from the noon. And, I heard from Hana-obasan that to become a Knight money is needed.....I want to become a Knight.」

「Knight huh....」

For a boy, there a period where they dreamed on to become a knight.

Rendell also secretly had such period.

「I wonder how much money is needed.....?」

「Etto..... Wasn't it four gold coins?」

Although the young Wynn didn't know how to perform calculation, but nevertheless he had some understanding about Gold Coin.

Currently, Wynn had a monthly pay of one silver. One gold coin could be exchanged into 100 silver coins.

「Is that so? There also a time when I too yearned to become a knight.」

「Randall-ojisan was also?」

「Yeah, since it's cool. Holding a sword on my hand, I did Knight game. [7]」

Knowing that Rendell also yearned to be knight, Wynn breaks out a smile.

After he lost his parents, it was a rarely seen expression, Rendell unconsciously also cracked a smile.

「Hey! Slacking off again? I won't give your meal today, you know!」

Peeking from the kitchen, Hanna shouted

「You too! The additional orders are piling up! You can't let the customer wait you know!!」

「Yes」

The two return to their work once again with an embarrassed like expression

On the behind of the inn there was a small storage shed.

Since it didn't really get used often, it was modeled with a bed. This was Wynn's new house for the last three months.

After the night wore on and passed the midnight, after finished with tidying the shop and cleaning, Wynn's long day finally ended.

A five year old child would normally feel fear if was left alone in the darkness when the shed was closed, however Wynn who was exhausted by the daily chores slip into the crude blanket and sheet, and usually he would immediately went to sleep.

However, maybe because there still some excitement from seeing the knights at this noon remained, he wasn't able to sleep.

(What is knowledje and educasion[8]? But Rendell ojisan said that it will be good to train the body.)

He didn't understand the difficult words but Wynn remembered that it will be good to train his body.

(I want to become a knight. But first, I will train my body)

Adventurers also lodged in this inn.

He had noticed how they ran with weight in the early morning or their figures training by swinging the sword.

(I will work hard from tomorrow morning.....)

Even if he was excited, he couldn’t cheat his exhausted body.

Wynn who was overwhelmed by drowsiness, fell asleep.

From the next day, before the chicken that was kept in the inn perform its morning call and the early morning was still blanketed by darkness, Wynn had opened his eyes and run around the neighborhood, day after day.

He considered drawing water from the well as muscle training. He made a round trip using a big bucket and ran around with it even when it was empty.

When Rendell and Hanna wake up, they were surmised seeing that the water jugs had already been filled, because it was not something that was troublesome, they were glad that Wynn was able to do other jobs.

From peeling potato and carrot, he also learned how to use Kitchen Knife and Dagger.

His jobs were increased, but his pay money didn’t increase.

Nevertheless, Wynn didn’t complain even a bit, he found those works as a place where he trained.

And then, time flew by.

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[1] アルファーナArufaana

[2] Got a better name? レムルシル remurushiru

[3] シムルグ Shimurugu

[4] 渡り鳥の宿り木亭 Wataridori no Yadoigitei

[5] 無駄飯 Mudameshi – Good for nothing, Free loader, Free meal, burden *etc.*

[6] Expression in Japanese to say that the amount is to small/insignificant.

[7] A make believe game.

[8] Wynn used hiragana here than the kanji one. Children mostly don’t know kanji.

B

Translation Corner

Hello Guys, it's Guro!

I have two news, one bad one good.
The good news is I brought you the second part of Yuusha Shishou's chapter 1!
The bad news is I think I'm going to drop the series, I'm sorry but I take this decision after I thinking about it for a while.
I hoping there will be someone that will pick up this series.
I'm sorry everyone Orz...
Enjoy!!
P.S: I don't guarantee I translated everything 100% correct

The Boy who Aims to be a Knight (Second Part)

—— Wynn turned 8 years old.

His tasks every day increase further.

However, the pay doesn’t change.

But, when you compare Wynn’s agility with children with the same age as him, he was clearly superior.

Because there was no one he can compare with, he still don’t noticed it——。

While Randel and Hanna have two boys who turned 11 years old and 9 years old, but different with Wynn, they were raised and spoilt by Hanna. Wynn’s time to play are taken by work——or more precisely, if there are free time Wynn used it to training——Wynn also doesn’t have the opportunity to meet either.

He wake up early on today's morning too, he run to the building because he need to finish drawing the water. Unlike the time when he was five years old, he now holds two bucket.

Even with just this, it's already surpassed a common sense of a normal eight years old child.

He finish drawing the water because the double speed so far, at time before Randel and Hanna wake up, Wynn swings a wooden sword.

He got this wooden sword from an adventurer who stayed for about one month when he was seven years old.

He who wake up earlier to training himself was surprised when he saw the figure of a child who running around while it's still dawn, but when he heard Wynn's dream that he was aiming to become a knight, the adventurer not just gave Wynn this wooden sword, he also teach Wynn the way to hold the sword and the way to swing it.

It was a godsend that Wynn never hope for to be able to be taught about the sword by adventurer for one month before he once more departs.

The sun rose, as the cleaning on the morning and the training were finished his free time in the day increased.

With the rise of the work's efficiency, Wynn's basic endurance was more than the children on the same age as him.

On that day too, Wynn used his free time to earnestly swing his wooden sword.

Suddenly, he felt someone gaze and looked back.

A small Girl looked at Wynn while hiding behind the building next to the inn.

Unlike the shabby looks of Wynn, the Girl wears lovely clothes using a

high class white cloth.

Her eyes are like saying, what is the boy who is slightly older than she was doing here? Is it interesting? Or such light of curiosity dwelled in her eyes.

When Wynn stopped the hand which swinging the wooden sword and turn his eyes at the Girl, the Girl runs and stepped out from the shadow.

「What are you doing?」

「I'm training.」

「Is that interesting?」

「I don't know whether it is interesting or not, but it's pleasant.」

「May Letti do it too?」

Letti might be her name.

She picks up a stick on the ground nearby and swings it alongside Wynn.

Wynn swing his wooden sword too while thinking that's okay as she doesn't particularly disturbing him.

From that day, Letti come and swing the stick alongside Wynn.

She asked Wynn the time he wake up, she come at the time Wynn come.

Letti's clothes are always different.

However, because he saw the clothes she wear uses high class cloth, Wynn thought that she might be a child of a wealthy family.

It's likely she come after sneaking out, because her kneecap was always dirty when she arrives.

Doesn't her family concerned about it?

So he thought, but there's no pleasure in training. Wynn has a goal, because he didn't dislike the pleasant fatigue after the training he was able to continue it every day, but if it was a normal child they get tired immediately.

In fact the two boys of the inn, mimicking the action of the child who was younger than themselves working, they snatch the wooden sword from Wynn, they try training but got tired of it before the third day, they threw away the wooden sword and gone out to play.

The girl who introduced herself as Letti will eventually not come again and he sure that he will trained alone.

Wynn was walking and carrying two buckets full of water while looking back at Letti who similarly carrying one bucket following him with unsteadily step.

「Onii-chan..... It's heavy.....」

「If it’s heavy, it okay to leave it behind, you know? Because I’ll come back later and pick it up.」

「I’ll do my best.....」

Letti says so while her white face turns bright red and she’s walking with heavy breath——

She was two years younger than Wynn, but he enjoy the time with Letti as he almost didn’t have experience playing with the other children on the same age as him—— Even so some day, Letti will get tired of it and went away.

When thinking so, he felt some loneliness.

Surprisingly, Letti kept coming to Wynn’s place since then all the time for half a year.

Before he notices, she soon came while bringing a wooden sword with size that matches her body.

When time he was going to do warm up exercise and starts running, Letti shows up.

After the two people finished the warm up, they ran around inside the

town.

When he was 5 years old he only ran around the inn, but as he now 8 years old his running speed rose and he can run around the whole town as he pleases.

After Letti come joining him, to match her speed, he once again only run around the inn, but only after several months she can match Wynn's speed.

Saying it honestly, it's unusual.

Wynn's physical strength and also his running ability are already surpassing children in the same age as him, it's surpassing the power of a normal male adult.

She able to catch up with Wynn with only in several months

Letti was an existence that can be said a genius.

However, Wynn didn't notice such thing.

Anyway, as there's no comparable target.

Even though she was two years younger than him, he thought Letti who could already catch up with him was amazing, but he thought that just normal.

When he finished running and drawing the water, both of them pick up the wooden words and exchange blow with each other.

It's learning by imitating the match of the adventurers.

First of all Wynn mostly serve as the receiving side, but nowadays they changed the attacker and the defender position with each other.

Gagagagagagagagaa[1]——so they strike each other in high speed.

The sword speed was already out of child's league.

「Good grief, it's noisy in early morning.....」

Hanna who just wakes up said the grumbling and complaint while looking at the outside.

When the girl came, at first she thought that they ware loafing and playing around so she shouted.

However, the work was finished precisely and she saw the girl's clothes were very good, she knew it.

Certainly she must be a princess of noble from somewhere, or a daughter of a rich merchant.

The exchange blows of the sword escalating every day, but Hanna doesn't understand sword at all.

The adventurer who staying at the inn noticed the two children's rally with clearly abnormal speed, but their pride might prevented them to acknowledge that the two of them may already surpasses them, because it's not allowed to disturb them, Randel and Hanna just leave them alone.

The girl had lovely features that were green eyes and blond hair.

She must be brought up into a beautiful woman in the future, even though Hanna fine with her two sons, she thought as she pleases.

The two sons, the eldest Mark and the second Abel also know and pay undue amount of attention to the girl.

Though they seems sometimes talk but——

Because Letti was keep close to Wynn and for some reason help his work, the two people who can only play cannot become friends with her easily.

「Hey hey, you should ignore that guy and play with us.」

「Today I will read a book Onii-chan.」

Mark and together with the neighborhood children calls out Letti who walk briskly behind Wynn but Letti hides the book on her back and follows Wynn by trot.

Recently, Letti came over again once before noon and once before the evening.

It’s because she knew that at this time was when Wynn’s work at lunch time was over so he was free.

She always carries a book and read it together with Wynn with a difficult face.

She hiding the book on her back, because she experience her book taken before and didn’t want it to happen again.

Her leg strength has already exceeded the older boys, she will immediately ran after it while crying though——

Letti sit on the chair beside Wynn who finishes his works and take a short break, and open up the book.

Hanna who saw it as nuisance first, she doesn’t say anything now.

Therefore Letti stayed in this room imposingly.

She was 6 years old and just begun to learn alphabet from a private tutor employed by her family.

On the other hand, Wynn didn’t go to school but was taught only alphabet and number for calculation from Hanna so he can learn to do account book’s works.

Therefore, though Wynn reads the book. He reads it together with Letti.

The contents was of unintelligible language when the private tutor taught her, but it

has obediently entered her head when she with Wynn.

「——the place we live in this world is called as Alfana continent.....[2]」

The book that Letti brought was about history or myth, sometimes a valuable magic book and others, Wynn welcomed her visit from afternoon heartily.

For Wynn ho doesn’t have friend, he thought that she might be already his best friend.

「—— the northern part of the continent, was a land where human can’t tread upon spreads out, and are overflowing with monsters and demons controlled by the Demon King——Onii-chan, what is a Demon King?」

「Among the monster, that guy is the number one strongest.」

「Stronger than Onii-chan too?」

「Isn’t he stronger?」

「More than the Knight people?」

「Hmm..... if that’s so I decide to be stronger than a Knight !」

For Wynn who yearns to be a Knight, their strength were absolute.

Because Letti happen to brought an amusement book except the educational one.

「But, if the knight people are stronger, why they don’t attack that Demon King?」

「Come to think about it..... eh?」

「Huhh?」

Let alone a Demon King, even if it's one high rank demon race that appears, something such as knight order will be easily destroyed though——

Though such difficult content was included in the book they read, the two young children were foolish as appropriate to their age.[3]「I understood the law of nature of the fire and light the fire——[4]」

「Onii-chan, you did it!」

A small fire on the degree of a candle was lit on Wynn's fingertip.

He practiced the magic listed in the magic book that Letti brought.

「I will do it too」

「Concentrated it firmly on your fingertip」

「Concentrate,, concentrate」

Letti stares at her fingertip motionlessly——

「I, understood the law of nature of fire and lit the fire——[5]」

Click![6]

「Wow!」

Flame vigorously sprayed from Letti's fingertip, Wynn who looked at it were enfolded by the raising pillar like flame.

「Ah, Onii-cha, are you okay!?」

Panicky she wave her hand to put out the fire, and bend her body to look into Wynn's face who lands on his bottom.

「Ah, what a surprise」

His bangs were burned by the fire, but he didn't get a burn.

「Letti seems to have a much stronger mana than me. Surely you will become an amazing magician」

Though a talent that was much higher than himself has was shown to him, Wynn shyly looked at Letti not with jealously but a admiration one.

「But, if I want to become a magician, I must study many times right? I hate studying…」

「I think Letti is clever. You already able to read a lot of difficult letter isn't it」

「Even so, when studying with the private tutor, he always get mad…」

Wynn pat Lettie's head who hang her hand.

「When I read the book together with Onii-cha, I can understand it very much」

「Is that so? Then let's read together again」

「Okay!」

Letti cheerfully nods.

Thus the days of the two training and studying together—— well Wynn aside, Letti spent the time playing and studying.

Thus the month flow even more—— Wynn became 12 years old, Letti 10 years old.

That day occurs just as usual, Wynn was waiting for Lettie to come.

「Uu, Onii-chan…」

Letti came running with vigor while crying and sobbing and embraced Wynn.

「Wh, what happened? Letti」

Wynn who turns 12 years old was thinking about being embraced by an opposite sex near his age that like his younger sister and trembling instinctively.

Letti who didn’t pay attention at all to Wynn’s state, still embraced him strongly.

「What if I suddenly gone and went far away?」

Slightly stunned, Wynn was surprised by Letti’s body odor that was sweet scent but more softer than he thought, separated himself from Letti, he looked at her face

「How far, is it Klenad?」

Klenad, the city next to the capital. For Wynn that’s far.

「No. it’s more far away」

「Is that so. How long till you return?」

「I don’t know」

Letti says so then she embracing Wynn and crying again.

Wynn patted her head gently till she finishes crying.

「I’m sorry. We can’t train together again」

「It’s okay. I will soon saved enough money for the school enrollment fee and go there to become a knight, anyway since I will go the school, we can’t train together again」

「Uh huh」

Probably, Letti might marry someone in foreign country.

The dignity that she brings out when she young was a sign that a commoner like him don’t had.

Since this year, Wynn probably guesses it somehow that Letti might be a daughter of a high rank house.

Well, he don’t understand why it’s like pretending to see that the daughter

slipping away from the house.

If it's a daughter of a high ranking noble, they will get married when they're young.

Well, a 10 years old girl was too early though.

「As much as possible, I'll do my best and return quickly!」

「Hey hey, it might be no good if you return quickly」

Wynn concluded that she will marry someone.

As the meaning of her words that she will return quickly, it might be divorcing the other party.

Surely, that will be bad for her house.

「It's no good?」

Letti seems going to burst into tears again.

「That, I'm glad though….」

「Then, I will return soon!」

Letti grasped a fist to fire herself up.

「After the warm up exercises today, should we have a match immediately?

「Ah, okay」

Wynn nod when he look at Letti who was more fired up than usual for some reason.

It's different from the usual training schedule but she was fired up with much effort.

It seems there might stress of going to a place where she don't want to go.

He think that the feeling might be confusing, he decide to accompany her.

——That day, Letti's sword speed had not like that seen up to now.

Wynn while defending was also aiming for a blow of counter, but Letti till the very end didn't showing any gaps, in the end Wynn was caught by the feint Letti begin to show and for the first time since the beginning of the

training of those two, Letti surpassed Wynn.

And the next day, Letti didn’t show her face. Even on the next day—— and the day after that too——

That day was the last day before her departure.

It’s been many years since Wynn training alone.

Honestly, it was lonely. But, Wynn don’t have time to cry.

She began to walk on her road.

To become a knight that was his dream, it’s necessary to acquire more power than now.

He just need to saved up a bit money for the enrollment fee that was his target.

As if to distract himself from the loneliness of Letti’s departure, Wynn torment and temper his body furthermore——

Guro's Note:

Ah so emotional.... Bye Letti

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[1] It’s Bish bash or Wham bam SFX that used in fight.

[2] Geee..... no kanji here.

[3] What do you expect from a 8 years old boy and girl younger than him

XD

[4] 我、火の理を識りて火を灯す (Kanji).

[5] われ、ひのことわりをしりてひをともす (Full hiragana).

[6] Sfx for ignition of flame.

Chapter 2

First ever translated chapter. ~~Excuses~~ Disclaimers in the Hello World post and About me Page. I am sure to be free during June, but am leaving on a graduation vacation trip for a month in July. No schedule yet.

Credits:

- TL: Elephant No. 5
- Special thanks to Guro for his help in fixing my guesslations!

Leticia von Mavis, the Brave.

At the royal palace of the Remulshil Empire.

In the throne room.

On the dais is a throne. There, the eleventh generation emperor Alexei Root Remulshil is seated. On his right, are the Royal Knight Corps. On his left stand the country's chief ministers. Between them, a group of four people walked slowly up the red carpet towards the throne. To the right walked the prince of the neighboring country of Leon, Raúl Holt Leon, known as the Sword Saint. In the middle walked an elven princess, titled Great Sage, Tiara Belfa. On the left was the Holy Woman who served the the Dawn Goddess Anastasia who created the world, Liara Sayn.

In front of those three walked a girl. She stopped walking towards the throne. While the Sword Saint, the Elf Princess, the Holy Woman all bowed their heads, only one girl casually faced the Emperor. However, among the knights and the ministers, nobody criticized her disrespectful action. That was because that girl was the Brave blessed by the Dawn Goddess Anastasia, "Divine Sword Princess" Leticia Mavis. The divine authority she was given was comparable to that which the Emperor and other rulers possessed.

She had golden hair that seemed to attract light, and emerald green eyes. Her companions' beautiful appearances were overshadowed by her beautiful face. Those assembled, who didn't possess such a beautiful face, were enchanted. She exerted an imposing presence.

Standing in front of the Emperor, the dignified atmosphere that she gave off was in no way inferior to his.

For this reason, they wanted to —

"You have earned any reward you desire. So, Brave, won't you become the marry my son and become the empress?", asked the Emperor, while bowing his head.

The Divine Sword Princess had destroyed the Demon Lord Army which had damaged the many countries of the continent, and defeated the Demon Lord.

She was originally the youngest daughter of the Mavis Ducal House, but is she became the empress, she would have the domestic influence of the royal family, and when combined with her prestige in foreign countries due to her military achievements, she could do as she pleased.

Even then, she already possessed enough power to defeat the Demon Lord which had single-handedly devastated countries.

The power that human armies cannot match.

Even then regardless of race or nationality, everybody on the continent worshiped the Brave.

The nation began to be interested in obtaining her power.

The country's crown prince Alfred was 23 years old.

Although the 14 year old Leticia was 9 years younger, such an age difference was not uncommon among nobility.

Furthermore, there would be no objections, since she possessed exceptional beauty among the royalty and nobility.

However —

“I humbly apologize, Your Majesty.”

The words spoken by her mouth were ones of denial.

Only the girl blessed by the goddess could deny the Emperor.

“Leti, is there anything that dissatisfies you about the marriage to the prince?”

Among the ministers arrayed in the throne room, the voice of a man in his prime called out.

It was Leticia’s father, Duke Mavis.

“At this time, I have just returned from subjugating the Demon Lord. I cannot think about such a thing at this time.”

“But –“

“It is fine, Duke Mavis.”

The emperor cut off Duke Mavis, who was about to give a rebuttal.

“I certainly have rushed this talk too quickly. Therefore, please stay at the palace for a while, until you have sufficiently recovered from your fatigue.”

However, Leticia still shook her head at the king’s words.

“I must apologize once again, Your Majesty. I must report the successful Demon Lord Subjugation to my master at once.”

“Hou? The master of Leticia the Brave?”

The Emperor leaned forward.

The Brave possessed the highest sword and magic skills of all humanity.

The country would gain outrageous benefits if it could take in the master of the Brave.

It wasn’t surprising that the Emperor leaned forward.

Somebody stuck out his chest proudly upon hearing these words.

It was the man who stood beside Duke Mavis, who worked as the Ducal

House’s private tutor.

He had heard of his disciple Leticia the Brave who was making her triumphant return and had obtained an audience with the Emperor. As her teacher, he selfishly expected a reward, and asked that the Duke let him attend the audience with the Emperor

Despite his low rank, he also held the rank of Baron, and thus had no problem entering the palace.

(At last, my name will be introduced by the Brave)

As the man who was the tutor of the Leticia, who had grown beautifully, a smile emerged while imagining that he would soon present his hand to the Emperor.

(When I first took charge of her, I thought ‘What a foolish young lady she is!’ It was me patiently teaching her magic, that even her swordsmanship improved. Which reminds me, it was me who wanted to build her a bokken. I had a heated argument with the Lady over the matter. If I think about it now, they were vexing memories, it may be the remark that brings out the Brave’s diligence.) (TL: still doesn’t seem to fit… [1])

While teaching the noble art of swordplay, she appeared unscathed, but he took out his stress on her.

(Now that I think of it, though it’s a bit glossed over, my strictness caused the Brave’s awakening. Yes, the Brave standing here right now is the product of my benevolence.)

In his mind, he saw a scene of her introducing him to His Majesty the Emperor. (TL: single quotes in the dream sequence)

‘The gentleman over there is my teacher.’

‘Hou, so that person is the one?’

‘Yes, he has guided me strictly ever since I was young.’

‘I see. So the secret of thy strength was that tutor?

‘Yes, Your Majesty. Master taught me both swordplay and magic, and I respect him deeply.’

‘For Mavis the Brave to speak so highly of him, he must be an exceptional person. His name is?’

As His Majesty the Emperor permitted me to speak, I raised my head and faced him. (TL: tutor POV)

‘I –‘

As the tutor immersed himself in his delusion, the Emperor and Leticia the Brave advanced the conversation.

“Why do you so urgently want to report to your master?”

“I am thankful for Your Majesty’s consideration –“

“Fumu, I want to meet him once, the one called the Master of the Brave.”

“If that is the case, then I am right here!”. the tutor almost called out.

However, before he could, Duke Mavis called out, drawing attention to him.

“Leti, your master is right here. Hasn’t your report reached him?”

In his heart, the tutor was dancing.

As his recent delusions turned into reality, he stepped forward one step and looked towards Leticia.

And there stood a smiling Leticia – in his delusions.

‘ Who is this?’ She looked at the man with a puzzled expression.

“Could it be that you have forgotten the Baron-dono who acted as your tutor because you were young?”

“Ah, it has been a long time, hasn’t it?”

After a slight bow, Leticia ignored him.

“Leti, is your master not the baron?”

Because Leticia did not show a shred of interest in the baron, the Duke asked her. The tutor beside the duke was stunned.

“Did you apprentice yourself while traveling?”

“I did not meet such a person.”

Tiara the Elf Princess, responded.

“I have traveled with Leticia from the very beginning, and have not seen such a strong person along the way.”

“If that is true, then where is this master?”

The master who taught her magic and swordplay. Everybody was interested in that person.

She smiled at the Emperor’s question. It was a smile that even Tiara who had accompanied her from the very beginning of the journey only now saw, a smile that spilled onto her face and could not be contained.

“He is in the Imperial Capital.”

“What!?” “Such a personage is here in the Imperial Capital?” The nobles murmured.

“Because of this, I must apologize for being unable to stay in the palace. I will return to my Master, Wynn Byrd’s side.”

From there, the legendary Brave, Divine Sword Princess Leticia Von Mavis

moved.

That moment marked the moment when the name of the teacher Wynn Byrd was recorded in history.

His name was conveyed by ambassadors from every nation on the continent.

He was called, “The Master of the Brave.” (TL: Title drop! Yuusha no Oshishou-sama!)

Raw:

[1]:家庭教師を引き受けた頃は、何て馬鹿なお嬢様なんだと思っていたが、私が根気よく教えたおかげで魔法も使えるようになり、剣技も上達した。そういえば、木剣を作って欲しいと言ってきたこともあったな。あれは、家で妻と喧嘩して腹立たしかったから、散々叩きのめしてやった時か。今にして思えば、あれも悔しいという思いで、精進しようという勇者としての素質から出た発言だったわけだ。

<– Chapter 1:[A,B] Chapter 3–>

Chapter 3

Credits

- TL: Elephant No. 5
- I did it all myself! I grew independent! Celebrate!
- Thanks to aotsuki for the voluntary proofreading!

After the audience

“Ah, Mou, I’m exhaausted ~!”

After the audience with the Emperor was over, as soon as Leticia returned to the palace’s guest room, sat in a chair and sprawled over it.

“You’ve worked hard today.”

Liara served tea to Leticia, who was sprawled on the floor, and her two other companions.

Originally, there would have been a dedicated servant that would have performed this task, but the since it was the group’s private resting time, the servant was not present.

“Nevertheless, for even the Stamina Fiend Leticia to be this tired, being in His Majesty the Emperor’s presence was unsurprisingly a mental strain, wasn’t it?”

“Well, I am not good with that sort of atmosphere.”

Leticia made a slight nod.

“Moreover, what clothes was I supposed to change into? Isn’t my everyday clothing good for I, the Brave?”

“Such a reason…”

Liara laughed bitterly.

“Isn’t Leti also the daughter of the duke? Shouldn’t you have experience with these things?”

“I was 10 years old when I departed, you know? Besides, other than during the oracle that declared that I was the Brave, such things were not expected of me.”

The young Leticia was a problem child who would sneak out of the house in the early morning while the house people (i.e. servants) were still sleeping, to the point that the private tutor would report that she was an idiot, albeit in a more roundabout manner. (TL: Thanks to aotsuki for clarification(I just copy-pasted his translation…))

At that time, the Ducal House announced that she was recuperating from an illness at a place far away from the capital, while intending to keep her from the public. If her appearance were unexceptional, in truth such an action would be enough. However, such beauty was rarely seen, the meticulous Ducal House would need to keep her in the house to maintain the excuse.

Although her education was left to the tutor, she never had her debut in high society.

But on her tenth birthday, the clergy of every country in the continent all received an oracle: “A Brave will appear. Her name is Leticia Van Mavis.”

Thus, the Ducal House which had treated her as a burden, changed their treatment of her. Leticia’s family began to interfere with her life, until Leticia herself felt troubled. To be specific, her father the Duke, no matter the cost, would send a merchant to procure whatever she wanted on the same day. (However, her sense of money was already influenced by Wynn’s plebeian sense of money). (TL: same-day shipping for anything she wanted!) Furthermore, the duke personally invited famous martial artists and magicians to the mansion (Great Sage Tiara was invited at this time), in the hopes that some would stay with her.

However, in the end, to the Leticia who had never been spoiled until then, such excessively blatant actions only made her more cautious, and did not change her daily trips to Wynn’s place that would go on for half a year, when she would depart.

“Aah, I really want to hurry and leave. I wanna return to Onii-chan’s side~.”

“Is this Elder Brother (Onii-kimi)that you are talking about Reiruzu of the Mavis House?” (TL: -kimi seems to be an archaic suffix… Any suggestions for 兄君?)

Liara extended her hand towards Leticia, and slowly petted her soft hair.

Leticia was still sprawled on the floor, letting Liara pet her.

Leticia would only show the sight of an exhausted Leticia to her companions.

Before she arrived at the Ducal House and was called to the palace, Leticia would hide her current state under the dignified aura of the Brave.

To her, the Ducal House could not be called her true family.

“Come to think of it, throughout the journey, she would say ‘I wanna see to Onii-chan! I wanna return to his side!’. You must really like your Elder Brother, ne?.

Surprisingly, when she neared the Ducal House, instead of returning to her brother immediately, she rented a room to stay in.

“After this ordeal of visiting the Duke, she’s now free to meet her Elder Brother now.”

“But Onii-chan isn’t Onii-ue though?”

“However, doesn’t the Mavis House have four children, including Young Master Reiruzu and Leti’s two older sisters?”

Asked Liara, doubtfully.

“They are different, you know? Onii-chan is my Master!”

(TL: Star Wars tier revelation! (Only have actually seen ep. 4))

“Wait a minute!”

Raul interrupted Leticia’s words.

“Leti’s Master is young enough to be called Onii-chan?”

Until this point, the three people’s image of Leticia’s Master was a sharp, elderly man.

However, the one Leticia called ‘Onii-chan’ would have to be in his 20s or 30s.

“Onii-chan is two years older than me. Aah, I wanna see him soon~!”

He was far from being in his 20s. He was in his teens.

The Hero Party was shocked at this statement. (TL: I finally gave up on using Brave at this instance of “Yuusha”… It sounds too much like an adjective sometimes. Should I perservere?)

“It can’t be. Could this Onii-chan be stronger the Leti?”

“Just before I departed I never once won against him.”

“When I was invited to accompany Leti, she was already stronger than me,” supplemented Tiara, who was part of the party from the beginning.

“Haa? Wait a minute!”

Raul reflexively stood up, facing Tiara.

“When you were called, Leti was only 10 years old right? At that time, she was already stronger than you?”

Like other elves, although Tiara appeared to be in her teens, she was already over 150 years old.

“Sou, As expected of the Brave, to have such amazing swordsmanship and magic skills. Your second name ‘Divine Sword Princess’ is not just for show.”

“Oo, seriously?”

The three shifted their attention to the prone Leticia.

Throughout the journey, they had seen her fighting strength that utterly lacked common sense.

As a matter of fact, even if the three challenged Leticia together, Leticia would still be completely victorious.

“Leti’s master can’t be stronger than Leti is right now right?”

“I am now stronger than him.”

“Right? I was thinking I’d like to have a match with him once, what do you think would happen?”
“If it’s a match, I think Raul would win.”

Leticia finally lifts her body from the table. (TL: I think it was originally a chair (it had a kanji meaning chair, then katakana meaning table) at the beginning…)

“But…”

While straightening out her clothes, Leticia floats a warm smile and turns her gaze out the window.

“If it’s not in the form of a match, Onii-chan might win?”

(AN: Next time: the MC finally (re)appears!?)

It would be nice to have somebody help me with the sentences that I struggle with, especially when I’m too lazy to go Google-diving for the correct meaning… Any takers?

<–Chapter 2 Chapter 4–>

Chapter 4

Aspiring to be a Knight

—Three years before the Brave who slew the Demon Lord returned to the Imperial Capital —

“Thank you Wynn-kun. Here’s the payment.”

“Thank you very much.”

After delivering harvested herbs and mushrooms to the apothecary’s proprietress, he received the money.

“Recently, that girl that you’re usually with isn’t here, is she?”

“Eee, maa… It seems that there were circumstances with Leti’s family, and it seems like she had to leave the capital.”

“So that’s why. You two suited each other very much. Isn’t it lonely?”

A month after the last match against Leti: ‘Headed to somewhere far away, she must’ve reached her destination. I wonder if she was able to fit in before she married?’

Several times, the children of the innkeepers — Mark and Abel — with the neighborhood children, would invite Leti to play when they saw her, but would somehow end up peeling potato skins alongside Wynn. During break times, their thoughts were like an open book.

Whenever they would come to play, despite their plans, Leticia would firmly reject their offers, and after trying multiple times, they would break into tears and throw a tantrum.
Other than their persistence, they never became close friends with her, but they still worried if she got along with the family she was married into. (TL: I feel like I’m having a hard time conveying that this is all their suppositions… is it noticeable?)

“I will try my hardest, so that I can return as soon as possible!”

Those were Leti's words on the last day they met.

He did not know what she would try her best at, but it was Leti. She would definitely adapt to her new circumstances.

'Mou, we will probably never meet again.'
He felt a sense of loneliness at the thought.

Wynn was convinced that Leti was to be married off in a faraway land.

If one read the news, an image of the Brave's departure parade was shown, but the news only circulated among a the richest people.
He heard gossip about the advent of the Brave, and the Demon Lord subjugation mission from the adventurers and merchants staying at the inn, but he would never have imagined that Leti=Brave.

What was once only Wynn's everyday chores to him, Leti had changed. Without Leti by his side, it became quiet. Thus, his everyday life of doing chores went on.
It was impossible for Wynn to know details about the Brave.

"Well, please take care of yourself, Oba-san!"

"Aiyo! Thanks!"

'I can't lose to Leti!' he thought. (TL: He uses shinyou to modify Leti. Shinyou means bosom friend, according to the dictionary, or in other words, BFF)
Wynn was fired up, and carrying a shawl shaped satchel on his shoulder, he left the Apothecary.

Every morning for a whole year, he would jog towards the Adventurer's Guild complete herb delivery and letter delivery requests.
The Adventurer's Guild had plenty requests of that nature.

Since monsters(mamono) from the deepest part of the forest did not appear, novice adventurers would take on these easy requests, collecting herbs and mushrooms from the outskirts of the forest.

Mail delivery was done by two people who regularly ran around downtown. To an extent, novice adventurers could also deliver letters efficiently. Many people sent letters, including nobles and merchants.

Naturally, since not many people were awake in the mornings, normal mail would be slipped through an opening, while the noble's mail would be given to the gatekeeper.
In addition to the commission rewards, he received tips (especially from pretentious nobles who wanted to display their wealth), such that in a year of continuous work, he had almost earned his target amount of money. (TL: Clunky wording?)
"Wynn! Stop swinging that stick around, and go to the market and restock this!"

"Hai."

Since Leti wasn't there, Wynn's work in the inn increased.
When Leti was here, they would do it together while swinging their bokkens.
Now, however, Hanna would ask him to both restock supplies and draw water when it neared closing time. (TL: really unsure… see note below)
Wynn was relied on to go shopping to the point that Hanna happily accepted his coming-of-age, and Wynn happily did his work.

As for Leti's absence, rather than be concerned that she was absent (or her family), Hanna's only thought was the increased workload.

He walked to the market while holding in one hand the memo he got from Hanna.

Although the sky was beginning to darken before he set out, the market was still bustling.
He was among other children running errands, and merchants clothed in traveling attire. Among the bustling stores, a village's harvest, handicrafts, and many small accessories were displayed.

There was a variety of customers there, including many people wanting to replenish supplies, locals, adventurers, and travelers.

Of course, passing through such a large crowd was immensely difficult. Wynn, who was walking towards Wataridori Pavilion's supplier which the inn was indebted, suddenly stopped. (TL: 渡り鳥亭=Migratory Bird Pavilion? sounds weird)

Before his sight, a satay shop was selling to the incoming buyers.
The juices dripping from the skewered meat, along with the sound of charred

pieces falling to the ground and the enticing aroma were all around him.
Attracted by the appetizing smell, people crowded around the cart. Among them were people drinking beer and wine.

His mouth watered.

In the middle of the dark town, many adults around Wynn, who was still on his way to draw water, were complaining after finishing their work.
Having not eaten breakfast, especially for a growing boy like Wynn, his empty stomach grumbled.

Enticed by the smell, he unconsciously, unsteadily —

“I will try my hardest, so that I can return as soon as possible!”

Leti’s voice rung out inside his head.

‘Even Leti was trying hardest in a distant, unfamiliar land.’
‘I have almost saved up enough money. If I, who wants to be a knight, give in to this temptation, what would I be?’

With a do-or-die spirit, he drew away from the smell of the satay, and looked away as if he had never seen it. (TL: thanks to Gaftonochec for drawing attention to it!)
He still didn’t know of it. (TL: what does he not know? context is hard but important… Help!)
Returning to his original place, he was trapped in the same trap —
‘Will I really become a knight?’

He often thought this while washing potatoes and carrots.

Even though he didn’t think too deeply about it, it still worried him.

‘Even if could I pay the entrance fee, even if I could pass the entrance exam, nearly all of the students are children of nobility, merchant’s children or landowners’ children.
‘Unlike when I wanted to become a knight when I was 5 years old, I am now 12 years old. I now understand what it means to pursue a dream unbefitting my class.’

Upon turning 15, to succeed Randall, Mark began to manage the inn, and

study how to manage the account book from Hanna. ?name
The Mark who only wanted to play, upon realizing that he would inherit the inn, began proactively helping his father.
On the other hand, the 13-year-old Abel would sometimes flee for a while during while working towards getting familiar with the business.

"I wanna become an adventurer!"

A vein in Randall's head bulged at the dreamy Abel's words, and Randall's fist came crashing down.

"So, this inn and town is too small for you, Abel?"

Abel, teary-eyed and shouting due to Randall's scolding, was defended by Hanna, as always.
Hanna was soft on her sons.

However, the words that Randall used to scold them for being too idealistic, Wynn, who was wiping the floor with a cloth, pierced Wynn's heart.

'I can't laugh at Abel.'
'My dream is also idealistic.'
'Even though I will soon have enough money, will it really be fine?'
'Even if I attend school, If I can't become a knight, wouldn't I have wasted my time?'
Without parents to support him, his only friend far away, without consulting anybody, with only the money he saved, Wynn would also work hard at the inn and in his training.

While thinking of not losing to Leti, who was working her hardest far away — AN: To those who expected a reunion, sorry. It will be a bit later. (TL: 2 more chapters (chapter 6))

<–Chapter 3 Chapter 5–>

From now on, I decided to minimize in text translator notes by moving all my uncertainties to a google doc. I'll now put a link here every release, showing my work, and red question marks where I'm unsure. Work

Any charitable souls may help me edit… I will add an E to the post title when all the red is gone. Please help by just commenting!

Random Questions:

1. Has anybody tried crowdsourcing translations (no idea about logistics…)
2. How many people know what the blog title or the header is from?
3. This novel seems rather stream-of-consciousness-ish. Is it just me? is it typical?
    - Are switches between 3rd person and 1st person common?
4. Should I translate onomatopoeias?

Chapter 5

here is the edited version xD, is not very different from my version is more are identical hahahahaha….. haha … ha … to whom I lie, this version is much better than mine D: ah and apparently I misread the katakana, is not read Gryfud if not Simurgh. Thanks editor-san.

———————————————————————————————

Entering School

Knight School Simurgh.

It is located in the southern part of the Imperial Capital Simurgh, at the former palace where the Emperor once resided. Since the Emperor built a new palace in the east, the former palace is now used as a school.

As a result of successive generations of reconstruction, the school could boast of its vastness across the continent, second only to the imperial palace.

Aside from the Knight School, the Knight Order Office, the Laboratory of Imperial Court Magicians are also within.

Thus, these officials are the ones who teach the Knight School Students.

(—— Finally, I have arrived.)(Wynn)

Wynn stopped in front of the castle gate of the former royal palace and squinted at the towering structure.

While closed during wartime, it boasts its impregnability. While open during peacetime, it welcomes foreign dignitaries, as many people and carriages are seen coming and going.

Since today was the entrance ceremony, there were more carriages entering than exiting.

Many wagons displayed a family crest.

Many aristocratic children who were admitted from all over the empire gathered here that day.

If one looked closely at the surroundings, aside from all of the attendants that didn't ride carriages, there was only one person walking there on foot: Wynn.

Wynn picks up the bag he gave Hannah and continues forward.

On his shoulder, Wynn carried a satchel that was worn out here and there (Hannah had bought it for him the day he set out).

It seemed that it was impossible for carriages to enter the gate.

The Knight School required that entrants be between ten and sixteen years old.

The boys and girls descended from their carriages and walked in the same direction. Their attendants carried their baggage, while they carried the splendid swords they had brought from their homes.They all walked in the same direction, towards the cathedral where the entrance ceremony would take place. Several tents were laid out, where several officials frantically tried to organize the children.

The weather was hot, and made people sweat a lot.

The children of the aristocrats and wealthy were not used to being kept waiting pushed forwards, creating chaos in the line.

In the first place, since many of them do not carry luggage but have their attendants carry it, the plaza was filled with people.

"Hey you, servants should go wait outside of the plaza for the moment, all right? " (Official)

A middle-aged official called out to Wynn, who was standing confusedly among the remaining people.

"Huh? You have the entrance permit?"(Official)

He showed the letter which he had tucked away in his breast-pocket..

It proved that he had passed the entrance examination.

The day he received it, he had secretly gazed at it in his bed for three days, without sleeping..

"Yes, I will be attending the school this spring"(Wynn)

“Oh, I see, you entered it as an attendant of your master. Where is your master? HAs he finished all the formal procedures?”(Offcial)

“No, I’m alone. The procedure is not yet finished. “(Wynn)

The official is amazed by Wynn’s casual words.

“This is a surprise, Judging from your appearance, even though you don’t seem to the child of neither an aristocrat nor a rich person, you were still able to enter. ” (Official)

“Yes, well…”(Wynn)

Once, he had bought new clothes in a thrift store, but the bag was worn worn out.

With his clothes from a thrift shop, and an old sword at his waist, Wynn’s appearance stood out among all of the other people in the plaza.

Even if he mixes with the attendants, there is no sense of incongruity. In fact, the attendants may be better dressed than he is.

“Fumu, You’re Wynn Byrd?. Come with me.” (Official)

The official walks to the tent, and the clerk gives Wynn the key and the uniform.

“This is the key to your dormitory room and your uniform. There is a locker room next to the cathedral. You should change there..”

“Thank you for helping me.” (Wynn)

“Well, Luggage, and clothes taken off can be left here if you came alone. Bring the clothes you changed out of here.”

“Understood.”(Wynn)

Bowing, Wynn walks toward the cathedral as instructed.

Wynn looked up to see the building, causing his neck to ache since it was so high, then went inside. There, inside was the locker room as he had been told.

Even if it was called a room, it could be considered a hall.

In the room, many people were already changing, and a few groups were

chatting freely, probably due to mutual acquaintances.

In the corner of room, Wynn found an empty spot, threw down his bag, and began to change clothes..

“Hey, you commoner!”(???)

He was called by a voice with mocking tone, and when he turned around, there stood several boys.

(Are they the same age?)(Wynn)

Each of them were clothed in fine silken clothes and carried the new uniforms handed to them.

“Whom do you serve?”(???)

“No, I’m not a attendant”(Wynn)

“Is it so?, Then, vacate that area . We will change clothes there. “(???)

The boy comes over and pushes Wynn aside.

“You’re in the way.”(???)

The spat out, while kicking aside the Wynn’s bag and sword.

“What are you doing?!”(Wynn)

He raised his voice, while recollecting his possessions.

“Bastard!” “How dare you show disrespect to Jade-sama!!”

The boy’s followers were angry, each brandishing a beautiful sword.

But –

“Hey, you all,”(Jade)

The boy called Jade raised his hand and restrained them.

“He is a commoner. We who are nobles should treat an uneducated, uncultured commoner tolerantly.” (Jade)

And he held out his hand to Wynn.

“I am sorry. It never occurred to me that were your belongings”(Jade)

Jade smiles while shaking hands with Wynn.

The face was smiling, but the eyes weren't but were filled with arrogance, eyes accustomed to looking down on others..

"Why, I thought that there was garbage in such a place, in the Knight School Simurgh, No place plebeians like you could exist."(Jade)

Saying this in a whisper, He wiped his hand with a silk handkerchief after letting go of Wynn's hand and begins to change clothes..

Wynn tightened his lips, and after a while, began to change clothes again.

Seeing this, the people around them began to change clothes again.

"It is as expected the son of General Clifdorf. To apologize to a commoner" "As the Heir of the Marquis House, Jade van Clifdorf-sama is different from us"

In the end, other people did not seem to hear the words that Jade muttered in a low voice. On the surface, it seemed that he apologized to Wynn and requested a handshake in an amicable manner.

As a result, Wynn managed to secure a place, he could not help but feel the chagrin.

"That was a disaster."(Wynn)

After the entrance ceremony ended, having made no special plans, while Wynn walked to the dormitories, his shoulder was touched from rear.

—

The boy with short red hair was standing there.

"I am Locke, Locke Marine. nice to meet you"(TL: I dont know if is Rock or Locke, here I leave the name · ロックマリーン)

"I am Wynn Byrd"

"After all, it was you."(Locke)

(What do you mean, after all?)(Wynn)

"I heard that that was the name of my roommate."(Locke)

"Huh? Do you know all of the freshmen here?" (Wynn)

"Nope, of course I don't know all of them." (Locke)

Locke said this while smiling, and walked beside Wynn.

“I come from a merchant family, so I have to attend various banquets, and as a result, I’m good with faces and names when I saw your name which I didn’t recognize, I immediately went looking and when I knew I had never seen your face, I immediately thought it was you.”(Locke)

Wynn and Locke started to walk together toward the bedroom.

“I see.”(Wynn)

“The guy who picked quarrel with you a while ago was the General Cliffdorf’s son. He is from an an excellent noble lineage, with title the Marquis. Did you also want to be a knight? Then, be careful not to earn their displeasure. “(Locke)

“Thank you, I will.”(Wynn)

However, Locke’s warning was in vain.

In the first battle simulation class ——

“Shit… Damn! ” (Jade)

The Battle Simulation class using a knight’s sword for training starts from the first day.

Jade grasps the sword, and he stood in front of Wynn.

For commoners as Wynn, It is general’s son and I who pulls his blood in a noble marquis family cannot be defeated.

To a shabby commoner, I who carries the noble blood of a Marquis House and is a general’s son, I can’t lose!)(Jade)

In history, military history and mathematics, even magic, Wynn’s grades weren’t good.

Unlike the other students who have learnt from their family tutors, Wynn self-studied by the books that Leti brought.

His basic academic skills were behind when compared to other students.

Furthermore, his magic power is also small.

Nobles perform marriages of convenience to strengthen their lineage and

increase their magic power, resulting in stronger magic power than commoners.

Children of landowners and merchants are also inferior to the aristocrats in magic power.

however among the commoners, Wynn had less power magic.

(Therefore, I intend to thoroughly bully him who is a poor student.)(Jade)

He filled his sword with magic, strengthening the power and sharpness.

(I decided to let you know your place.)(Jade)

However–

Kin!

Wynn knocked him out in an instant

He picked up the sword again, thinking that he had simply let his guard down and took a stance.

It was a crushing defeat.

In addition, it was in front of other who students were watching.

After all, until the instructor informs the end of class, Jade was shot down nine times.

(Shit, Shit, Shit, I'm being defeated by a garbage)(Jade)

Jade had an expression of anger, such that neither the followers approached, staring the back of the commoner Wynn that put away the training sword that was used in the classroom.

(—— I won't permit it!)(Jade)

There is light of dark abhorrence on Jade's eyes.

(—Don't think that you can get away with it!)(Jade)

And –

The annual year end apprentice knight selection test.

Victory in this selection test, status of associate knight is given or from Knight candidates if you can show off your superior combat technology.

That is, in spite of being a student could perform missions.

Conversely, when dropped, will come back next year.

“The winner is! – – – – -!! “

Wynn closed the eyes while hearing a voice of the delight of the opponent who won a game.

The examination is changed this year, last year was a magic competition, this year became a shin battle with the sword.

Wynn’s opponent was someone with skill in magic

Wynn magic that can use is low.

And, The magic that can use Wynn does not compare with that you can use the opponent, Barriers that he stretched also will been broken quickly, Test of the first year of Wynn got finished.

Wynn who falls full length and is vomiting a rough breath, Jade was watching from a distance with a dark look.

Jade’s Revenge was yet to come.

Chapter 6

Here is the chapter! I have~~n't made~~ a second pass to make sure it's correct, ~~but I couldn't just leave it unreleased~~... more after the chapter. Chapter 5 is here.

The fourth spring ★

For Jade van Cliffdorf, becoming a knight is merely a checkpoint. (TL: name is Kuraifudorufu)
Since the Marquis Clifdorf's House had produced generations of knights, the House held important offices in the imperial military.
As the eldest child of a renowned family, Jade began attending knight school at age 13. After a year as an apprentice knight, at the end of the second year, he finally fulfilled all of the requirements to become a true knight.
Despite this, since it was still necessary to attend knight school for six years, he was still officially a student.

Jade had just returned to the Cliffdorf mansion in the capital.
In the mansion's largest room, Marquis Welt van Cliffdorf sat at a round table.

He was Jade's father.

Welt held a post as a general. While he had been a soldier he was fair-skinned, but now, his face became pudgy, and after having never held a sword for a long time, he became ugly and fat.

When Jade entered the room, he bowed towards his father.

"I have returned, Honorable Father."

"It is good to see you back, Jade" [1]

He slowly sat into the seat across from her father, at which he pointed.

'Is such a man the general of the Imperial Knight Order?'

'His ugly stomach was swollen, the meat on his chin sagged.'

‘If even this man can become a general, then I–‘

While actually holding her father in contempt and smiling at such gossip, he began the conversation.

“So, Honorable Father, the reason you called me back so urgently is?”

“Do you know about the circumstances of the Brave?”

“Of course, she’s famous after all. Isn’t she the daughter of the Mavis Ducal House, Leticia Van Mavis-dono?”

“That is correct.”

“I hear that she is an extremely beautiful lady.”

Jade does not personally know Leticia.

She was treated as a problem child and never had her debut in high society during her childhood. After the oracle declared her to be the Brave, she left immediately
However, since Leticia’s portrait was placed in the newspapers, her appearance was shown with many news articles, causing her beauty to be widely known.

“I have met her twice, once at the audience with His Majesty, and once during the ball, and I can attest to her matchless beauty. As she is still 14 years old, even I would want to join the fray.” [2]

Welt smiled vulgarly.

“Hou, but surely other men haven’t given up on her?” [3]

“Prince Alfred had also asked His Majesty to invite her to become a princess. Well, the Brave has declined the request for now.”

Welt’s body shook as he stifled his laughter.

“The Brave’s invitation to the imperial household was meant to restrain our House.”

“The Crown Prince did that?”

Jade was surprised.
The status of a Crown Princess should hold tremendous appeal to a lady of nobility.To ignore it…

It would be understandable if Leticia, as a duke's daughter, declined the Imperial Family's wishes due to the difference in social status. After all, the duke's status was second to the Imperial Family's status.
However, to refuse the proposal of becoming the wife of the Crown Prince, as expected of a Brave.

"Didn't Lord Mavis say anything?"

"Although she's his daughter, she's still the Brave. It appears that she has the upper hand. Either way, that saves us some trouble."

"Honorable Father, what do you say we do?"

"Obtain the Brave's hand in marriage, Jade."

Welt's laughter turned into a smile.

"Your ages are close. If you can marry the Brave, the Clifdolf House will be able to resist the Imperial Family."

To the plebeians of this country, no, the people of the whole continent, the Brave is a sacred existence.

If the Brave is Jade's wife…

They could shut up the Emperor, who has recently been meddling in the affairs of us nobles.
The Emperor had talked about lowering taxes and improving the standard of living of the people in Marquis Clifdolf's territory, and Welt was fed up with it.
It would be hard for the Emperor to interfere if the Brave married into the family.
They would become the most influential nobles, the Emperor would be silenced, and they would have even more power.
Looking at his father, who was planning to gain power by obtaining the Brave as his son's wife, Jade smiled while looking at his father coldly.

He was already imagining the future of having the Brave as his wife.

Regardless of his own efforts, he would become a general just because he was of noble birth. [4]
He would most likely become a general without even doing anything.

Furthermore, desire swirled within Jade's heart.
'Even such a man could become a general.'
(If that's the case, then from here on out…)

'If I could marry Leticia the Brave, I may even end up as the emperor.'

Jade suddenly felt his blood boil.

'The current Imperial Family is soft on the plebeians.'
'Instead of appointing those of high nobility to become knights, now, many plebeians have been promoted. Furthermore, in the most prestigious school, the knight school, the plebeians dared to walk around so brazenly.'
Jade couldn't stand it.

As somebody from the Ducal House, Leticia the Brave inherited the blood of nobility.
To Jade, it didn't matter whether his wife was ugly or beautiful.
Instead, noble blood was important to him.
Even if his ambitions cause the imperial household and the Mavis House to disappear, he doesn't mind the existence of nobles. [5]
'By obtaining her hand in marriage, I would gain many allies.'
'The true value of her noble blood is known not only by nobles, but also the foolish plebeians.[6]
'Thus, the country will be reborn, with the blue-blooded nobility ruling over the masses, as is natural.' [7]

"So, Honorable Father,"

While thinking about it, Jade interrupted Welt's tirade on his future prospects.

"What is it?"

"Where is Miss Leticia right now?"

For their plans to go on, the must first gain the Brave's hand in marriage.
(The Brave is but a fourteen year old little girl. There are many ways to obtain her.)
(However, I must first meet her in person.)

At being interrupted, Welt wore a slightly bitter expression. He rose from his chair, and walked toward the window, his belly jiggling.

“Right now, she is staying at the palace. Later, she will return to her Master, but His Majesty seemed to not want to let her leave. Every night, he holds a ball and a banquet to occupy her.”

“In order to meet her, should I attend the ball too?”

“Exactly. The Cliffdorf is sponsoring the ball soon. At that time, create an opportunity. Think about a present to gift her.”

“It will be done.”

Aside from these two people, other nobles are working to obtain Leticia the Brave.
Possibly, this could include those of foreign countries.
They planned to steal a march on those people.
Jade smiled unconsciously at the gossip. [8]

Clear blue sky, and the gentle sunlight signaled the coming of spring.
Due to the preparations for the Knight School entrance ceremony, Wynn headed to the cathedral in the morning, wiped some sweat on his forehead with a towel on his neck, and then looked up at the shining sky.

Illustration (By みてみん)

(TL: I’m keeping with Wynn. Win just emphasizes the role of an OPMC(not that he is one).. to win.)

The migratory birds that announced the arrival of spring appeared to be white lines in the blue sky.

“Oooi! Wynn!”

Hearing the voice from behind him, he turned and saw his roommate Locke Marine. waving while running towards him.

“Good morning, Locke.”

“Instead of only attending the entrance ceremony, you’re helping with the preparations?”

Locke looked at Wynn’s full hands.
Since the cathedral was lacking chairs, Wynn was carrying one, as requested.

“A teacher saw me doing independent practice. Anyways, had no other plans.”

It’s the fourth time.

Locke takes a chair from Wynn and walks with him.

“More importantly, aren’t you now an apprentice knight? Congratulations!”

“Aah, well..”

While, scratching his head with his free left hand, Locke gave a half-hearted response.

“Honestly, to think I would do it before you…”

“I did not have enough ability, so I failed the examination.”

This happened three times.

Somehow… I couldn’t put magic power into the practice sword.[9]
When compared to magic-enforced steel, ordinary steel may as well be wooden.
“Not only that, but his opponent was the top student of his class.”
Two years ago, his match ended after having being restrained by magic and disarmed easily.

“Besides, your opponent was formidable, and you had a handicap.”

In a battlefield, one cannot choose their opponent. If I cannot win against whomever my opponent is, I do not have the qualifications to be a knight.

(Sheesh, what a stubborn guy.)
At these words, Locke looked at the back of his friend, who instead of resting, continued to work silently. [10]

They had been roommates for three years.
Locke had never met somebody like Wynn.
The morning after the entrance ceremony, Locke woke up to find that Wynn was not in bed. If he searched the courtyard, he would find him alone swinging an old bokken.
Every day, he would return late, after lectures and strict training sessions finished, he would leave in a hurry.
The nobles and merchant children would gathered school, on the other hand…
After class, many would go to town and party. The ones who didn’t go out to play were few.

Locke was interested in where Wynn went, and so, he tailed Wynn. [11]
Wynn would be at the bottom of the small kitchen washing potatoes.
After washing them, he would act as a waiter in the dining hall.
It was his habit.

He would return from work late at night.

That day, while Wynn returned from work without being able to call out, Locke didn't feel like playing around, and so he returned to the dorm.

He (Wynn) came home as if nothing happened. However, he was drenched in sweat from swinging his bokken.

Ever since the entrance ceremony, Wynn's swordsmanship surpassed the rest, and his peers were surprised at his grades, but only Locke accepted it as a natural outcome.

If only his hard work could be seen in the results.

When he was young, apart learning the basics from the adventurers, Wynn's swordsmanship was self-taught, but even the aristocratic children, who were taught by famous masters couldn't come close. [12]

Even then, Wynn struggled in the classroom.
When compared with his classmates, who had been taught by tutors, his academic performance was markedly inferior.
Furthermore, he had low amounts of magic power.
At the test during his first year, against an opponent whose strength was offensive magic, Wynn was helpless.
During his second year, he prepared countermeasures, but since the test only allowed the practice swords to be used, he was unable to use the countermeasure, and lost like he did before.
On his third year, he failed to find a way to use the practice sword to counter the magic.

After seeing this, Locke approached a teacher for Wynn's sake, but after the teacher said "Don't interrupt the test," they gave up.
Now, Locke has become an apprentice knight.
Locke was the second son of a merchant house.
The eldest son was to succeed their parents, but rather than apprentice himself

to another mercantile house and marry into another family, he enrolled in Knight School, hoping to live freely.
With that sort of half-hearted resolution, considering from Wynn's desperate efforts, his becoming an apprentice knight seems accidental.
Locke felt guilty towards Wynn.

"Ano, sorry."

After delivering the items to the official at the cathedral, he was about to set out to help with other work on the way back.

"What is it, senpai?"

Looking back, he saw a young girl standing there.

"Oo, a beautiful person."

Locke unintentionally muttered. though he was an admittedly reclusive person, even was unconsciously charmed by her.
The spring sunlight seemed to shimmer as it fell upon her golden hair, and her green eyes. (Countdown: five…)
The girl possessed a sort of translucent beauty.

"A, aa, should I be called senpai? Are you a new student?"

"Yes, that's right."

She nodded while smiling sweetly.

"If I have finished registration, I need to change into my uniform, but I don't see the special changing room for nobles here."

"Ah, if it's that, then this isn't the right way."

The girl was headed for the commoner's changing room.

"Sorry, but since it is early, there is barely anybody here, and the other people I asked were busy,"

apologized the girl.

"You two senpais seemed to be walking around idly."

"Eh, well…"

If that’s the case, then, Wynn, you should show her around, since you’ll be heading towards the entrance ceremony anyways.

“But I still have to help out…”

“Aren’t they all chores anyway? I’ll stay behind and do them for you. What point is helping out with preparations if you don’t help her?”

Waving his hand, Lock quickly turned away and left.

“Well then, Wynn. See you later!”

“Thank you Locke!”

After thanking Locke, Wynn turned to face the girl.

“Well, let’s go then.”

“Okay.”

The girl walked behind Wynn, following him.
He felt a nagging feeling in the back of his mind. [13]

“I thought you were my senior, but are you also a new student like me?”

“I am your senior, but this is my fourth time attending the entrance ceremony, so I’m essentially a new student.”

“Then, you will become my classmate?”

“It will be like that. Please excuse me, but since you’re using the noble’s changing rooms, are you a foreign exchange student?”

Generally, even the noble children change in the common changing room by the cathedral.
Only royalty and foreign exchange students of prominent nobles were allowed to use the special changing rooms.

“I was born in this country, but there are a few special circumstances..”

“So it’s like that, huh. Should I speak more respectfully?”

“Nah, I don’t mind how it is now”

The girl let out a giggle.

“After attending for four years, how can you still hope to be a knight?”

“I swore to myself that I would become a knight, without fail.”

“Even if this path is long and hard, I will continue to struggle without giving up.”
Believing in this, Wynn continued to swing his sword everyday.

“Furthermore, an close friend in the past is still trying her hardest alone in a distant place. Even if I don’t become a knight, I want to be able to proudly say that I have worked hard..” (TL: four…)[14]

Having said that, Wynn embarrassedly looked away from the girl.
Thus…

“It’s not strange….”

As the girl’s small mutter trailed off, she realized she had become moved to tears.

“What am I saying to somebody I’ve met for the first time?. Anyways, what’s your reason for enrolling?”

When Wynn asked that question, the girl’s face cleared up and smiled again.

“I am– Hmm… There is a person who I want to walk beside. He is my light, and I am still chasing his back.”

At that, the girl’s smile was so fascinating, that Wynn was unconsciously charmed.
(That smile, where have I seen it before?) (TL: three..)

“Ah, it seems that we have arrived.”

Stopping, Wynn watched as the girl gave the private room a knock before entering.

“Leticia-sama!” (TL: two…)

A large middle-aged man came out from within.
Despite his graying hair, he still had a youthful countenance, and a body tempered like steel.
It was the Knight School’s principal, Zaunas-shi.

“You were so late, I thought you were lost.”

“Please excuse me. I actually was a little lost.”

Leticia lightly bowed her head to the principal.
However, Wynn was not paying attention, since he was paying attention to Leticia’s impish smile.

Illustration (By みてみん)

If I remember correctly, you’re the the one entering school for the fourth time, Wynn Byrd-kun. Thank you for guiding her here, but now please step back.
“Are… are you Leti?” (TL: one…)

Interrupting the principal, he stepped closer to the girl.
He had a surprised and uneasy expression.

“I just realized it, but is it as I thought….?”

Hands on her waist, Leticia sighed.

“It’s been a long time, Onii-chan. I’m back.” (TL: Zero! Celebrate!)

Leticia flashed a dazzling smile at the dumbfounded Wynn.

AN: Finally… Finally they have met.

Did I write it skillfully?

I am more aware of my writing ability … (TN: lazily translated this line…)

Translator Notes and References

1. ~~Is this an idiom of sorts?~~

2. ~~help: last part~~

3. ~~help: guess~~

4. ~~Snark: mis interpreted, so invalid now~~

5. ~~… end~~

6. ~~?~~

7. ~~structure~~

8. ?: 口の端 does it mean something other than gossip?

9. used here, is maryoku

10. ~~?~~

11. ~~?wrong~~

12. ~~imprecise~~

13. ~~?subject~~

14. no gender in raw, but… It's so obvious…

15. ~~Incomplete sentence… Any ideas? 下がりなさ~~

<–Chapter 5 Chapter 7–>

~~As you can see, much of my translator notes are more of me having to go back and edit it. This will be fixed soon (I need to sleep and refresh my brain). Or, you can give suggestions in the comments. please reference the TN number if you do. I was kinda burned out after editting Ch 5 for cloverSK. Anybody who wants to help as editor is welcome, but you probably need to reference the raws to be sure of what he meant…~~

I experimented with the Translation Assistant app's automation. The raw text should be shown when you roll over, since the whole text is now a tags(if the HTMLers know what that means…) More random questions:

- Do people notice the status on the sidebar? I do when I visit other translator's sites…
- How does one create polls? WP plugin? iframe? I haven't bothered researching…
- Any suggestions for any of the names are welcome.
    - Ch 5: Simurgh was inspired by Worm (though in worm it's probably inspired by something else…). Is the author here?
    - Autocorrect keeps on giving me Clifford for Cliffdorf… Still don't like the spelling of 'Cliffdorf ', much less his character…
    - Any objections to having Wynn as the MC rather than Win?

Thanks to contributors who helped edit:

- Rizyun – Jade is a he.
- Raufgar – Added Leti's illustration.
- Turtle Master – Major edits. I hope your name was not because of mine. that would be ~~interesting~~ scary

Chapter 7

Do not read if you hate cliffs… or watch the hidden video as you wait. .

Thoughts from Four Years Ago (1)

Even before the rooster began to crow, Wynn was already awake.
Ever since he made the oath when he was five, he would always wake up at this time, without exception.

Looking around the small room, he saw Locke on the other bed still snoring.
Carefully as to not wake Locke up, he changed into training clothes, grabbed his practice sword, and then left the room.

Outside the dorm, the spring dawn wind was very chilly.
After warming his body with a light warm-up, he began swinging the practice sword.
Byuu,Byuu. Only the sound of the sword cutting through the air could be heard in the tranquil morning.
Wynn would repeat this scene every day.

— — No.

Something was amiss. [1]
Today, something was off, causing his sword swings to be off.
He stopped his swings to adjust his breaths, closing his eyes in concentration.

His head was filled with thoughts of his now-strong close friend Leti.
He could see her figure clearly in his mind.

During yesterday's entrance ceremony…

The noisy cathedral immediately became silent.

Only the sounds of breathing, and slight movements could be heard, and in that silence, a lone girl walked to the middle.
In the cathedral, was a tall platform.
Their backs straightened as her wasteless steps exuded a cold atmosphere.

As she walked up the stairs, the sunlight that passed through the stained glass shone on her golden hair and seemed to give it a soft glow
The girl's figure attracted attention of not only the students and the teachers, but also the knight leader, temple officials, and invited nobles.
Without any tension at all, the girl reached the top of the stairs, and slowly turned around.
At that moment, unexpectedly, her body was bathed in light — Everybody saw that mirage.

An unbelievable presence.

The sight of the girl made everyone left everyone breathless. However…

Suddenly, her frigid appearance turned into a gentle smile.
As if time had once again unfrozen, the atmosphere became relaxed again, and all around, sighs of relief could be heard.

"How are you everyone? I am the freshman representative Leticia."

Leticia spoke.
Once again, silence took hold of the cathedral.
The sound of people settling down was heard in the cathedral.

"I was chosen as the representative, but unlike you, I am not aiming to become a knight. That said, I do have a lot of battle experience, which I hope to share with you all."

Closing her eyes, she slowly put her right hand to her chest.

"Even though the Demon Lord has been defeated, there are still many threats in the world. As knights, you must protect the people around you. Together, we shall learn. Together, we shall work. Then, someday, together, we shall fight."

She bowed slowly.
One by one, people started clapping. Soon, the once silent cathedral was filled with the sound of thunderous applause.
As Leticia slowly straightened her body, the people in the cathedral saw a smile blossoming on her face.

The person standing on the stage during yesterday's entrance ceremony was his close friend Leti.
If one looked at Wynn, they would see standing at the end of the line of new students.[2]
In merely four years, to think that in those four years, she would change that much.

Shaking his head while exhaling, he renewed his concentration.
He thought of Leticia's silhouette wielding her sword. [3]
Until then, his image of Leticia was the one from four years ago. Now, he was able to imagine Leticia's distinct figure preparing her sword.
The incongruity in his sword swings just now was caused by the difference between his image of Leti and reality.
Therefore, after reconciling the difference, he was able to swing it properly.
The sight of Wynn practicing each day returned to normal.

However, the scene was slightly different today. [4]

At a glance, it hadn't changed at all.

Somebody was hidden in a building, looking at the boy two years older than her, who was solely swinging his sword.

It was a scene that Leticia had watched every day.
In those days, she herself had spent her time similarly.
It was as if the scene was repeated right now.

Every day, the tutor would compare her to her older sisters.

For better or for worse, her docile sisters would comply with the tutor's orders, and learned to etiquette and behaviour befitting of a noble lady, while Leticia only remembered bad memories of being scolded for being unable to memorize the alphabet.

"You can't even do these things. Your elder sisters were able to this at your age, you know?"

"Why are your movements so unrefined? There isn't a shred of elegance in them."

Her parents would receive the tutor's reports, which contained only praise for

the two obedient sisters.

One morning, Leticia woke up, slipped out of her room, and exited the gloomy mansion.

Without being able to do anything well, she was scolded every day.
Their master's attitude also influenced the attendants.
Even the attendants' scornfully gazed at her.
Even though they did it while they thought she wasn't looking, the extraordinarily perceptive girl endured those gazes without snapping.

And so, she ran.

With only thinking of escaping, he ran away from the gloomy estate. [5]
Although there were many guards patrolling the large estate, the young Leticia was able to reach the gate without being seen.
The young gate guard would yawn with a "Fuaa…" sound.
In that interval, Leticia slipped under the bars, and successfully exit through the gate.

It was Leticia's first time outside of the estate alone.
She hadn't chosen a particular destination.
She had merely wanted to run away from the detestable lessons.

Even then, Leticia ran in the cold morning of the capital.
Even adults could get lost in the vast capital.
To the six-year-old Leticia, it was a great adventure.

Even if it was only exploring the straight main street.

She walked down the street while the city was still asleep.
Despite the great adventure that was exciting at the start, the girl started to feel lonely in the silent streets.

It was as if she were the only one in the world.

It was scary.

However, she didn't become agitated.

Feeling these feelings that she didn't understand, she started walking, regaining her spirit with each step. [6]

At that time….

A lone boy appeared in the down-hearted Leticia's view.
Holding a wooden stick, he was whole-heartedly swinging it.
Was he practicing swordsmanship?
Compared to her elder brother who was learning swordplay, his movements were unrefined. However, his movements still captivated Leticia.

Despite the shoddy movements, it was full of vigor and enthusiasm.
His eyes shone with the light of determination as he swung the stick while gritting his teeth.

The young girl sensed this atmosphere.
She had longed for company in her little adventure.
The boy noticed her stare and looked at her.
Without thinking, her curiosity outweighing hesitance, she gathered her courage and approached.

"What are you doing?"

"I'm training."

"Is that interesting?"

"I don't know whether or not it's interesting, but it's pleasant."

"May Leti do it too?"

The boy agreed, and Leticia picked up a fallen stick, and swung it beside the boy.
At this, the boy stared at her for a while, while breathing a sigh, "Fuu…" began to swing with her.
Although he was swinging his stick, he would sometimes observe Leticia.
Worry and bewilderment mixed in her face.

It was the first time in a while since she had been paid attention to.

After the training, when Leticia finally said "Good morning" to the boy, and timidly asked if she could join him tomorrow, the boy nodded with a bewildered expression.
With the merry feeling overshadowing the fact that she had run away from

home, even when she returned to receive a strict scolding from her parents and the tutor, the feeling did not fade.

Because she had found a place where she belonged.

From then on, she would meet the boy every day.
After asking the tutor, she received a bokken.
After a while, her parents no longer paid attention to her escapades.
They only paid attention to Reiruzu and her two elder sisters, of whom the tutor sang praises.
For Leticia, this was convenient.

That boy, Wynn, would always train alongside Leti.
Even when they ran, he would run alongside Leticia, never running at an unreasonable speed.
Even when practicing with the bokken, despite being able to handle Leticia's strikes, he never injured her, but rather slowly instructed her.
She naturally understood Wynn's teachings, unlike the when tutor would forcefully give her an unreasonable amount of material. [7]

When the tutor assigned her a book, she would take it from the mansion to Wynn, who would happily read it, working through its contents together.
Instead of the tutor's method of forcing the information into her, she understood it when they thought through it together.

In the year that she spent with Wynn, she felt herself grow and mature.
She was even gradually able to understand her elder siblings' swordplay and magic lessons.
Even after the tutor had the attitude of having given up on her, she still learned magic and swordplay from him.

He had already given up on her abilities.

Therefore, they were unable to recognize her true ability.
Until that fateful day, when the oracle announced Leticia to be the "Brave".

Wynn silently swung his sword.
Leticia silently held her hand to her chest and closed her eyes.

During her journey, when many painful things occurred, if she thought of

Wynn, she became energized.
Courage would gush forth.
When those painful things occurred, it was because she would borrow his unyielding determination and believed, that she could persevere.

‘The one who guided me was you. Because I wanted to meet you, I became not just the Brave, but a determined person.

Leticia could clearly see Wynn swinging his sword.

Her current ability was far from the her in the image.

However…

She unconcealed her presence.
Drawing her practice sword, she suddenly jumped out of the shadows.

“Onii-chan!”

“Na,,, Le-Leti!?”

Striking at Wynn with overwhelming pressure, she covered the ground between them instantly.

‘This is my true power now.’

Leticia was now standing beside the boy she had wanted to stand beside for so long. [8]

‘Surely it was because of you, that I was able to believe and struggle on up to this point.’

AN: After four years, the two finally cross swords.
Leticia’s perspective of the past.

(TL: I reserve the right to embellish the Author Notes as much as I want!)

Translator Notes and References

1. ~~?~~

2. Changed from first person

3. ~~?剣を構えた?~~

4. Any suggestions on how to better use 光景

5. ~~?~~

~~6. ?middle part of raw?~~
~~7. imprecise.~~ Grammar of とって?
~~8. imprecise, i think…~~

<–Chapter 6 Chapter 8–>

Well… cloverSK has the next part, which I will try to edit… A note on the different text colors: I'm experimenting with different text colors that will show up well both on the blue site background, and the white editor, while removing the blue hyperlink color.

See you on Ch 9!

Random Questions

- Any suggestions for a series that I can just translate to unwind (as in I would just do it when I'm bored or burnt out, no promises though, fellow greedy leechers)?
    - It would/should be easy to translate, whatever that means, probably comedy like Second Life…

Thanks to:

- Turtle Master again. Thanks!

Chapter 8

A better version… due to a format change, now raw is back in this GDOC.

Thoughts of Four Years Ago (2)

The Brave, Leticia Von Mavis.
At merely ten years old, she was proclaimed by the oracle to be the Brave, and together with her three famous companions, the Sword Saint, Holy Woman and Great Sage, they went on an odyssey to defeat the Demon Lord.

She had enough righteous power as a Brave, and also enough magic power to be proud of.
With sword skills surpassing even the prodigal Sword Saint, her swordsman ship earned her the moniker “Divine Sword Princess.”
Passing through many battlefields, saving many cities and countries, she finally defeated the Demon Lord.
Her feat caused the inhabitants of the continent, including unrelated nobles of various countries, rejoice.
Many countries and races went to investigate this great new Brave.
Besides the nobles and wealthy bureaucrats, every country’s newspapers collected information about her.
As a result, the newspapers had Leticia’s image printed on it, were surprised and charmed.

Since she was the Brave who possessed overwhelming power, many failed to see that she was merely a fourteen year old girl.
With only her exceptional appearance, she exuded an aura of grace.
According to the people around her, anybody who met her directly felt something special about her.

Her fame spread across the continent, sometimes to the point of being worshiped like a goddess. She was a living legend.

Right now, the one called “Closest to God”, Leticia the Brave was…

“Leti, so you were there.”

“Etto, well… It’s just been a long time since I saw Onii-chan, I’m so happy!”

“Okay, okay, now sit.”

“Okay.”

In front of Wynn, who had veins popping out of his forehead, she was currently downheartedly sitting in a seiza pose.
With her golden hair tied behind her head, she feebly hung her head.

“Oi, is this kid here the same one as yesterday? I didn’t notice it yesterday, but could you be Leticia-sama!? Why are you in our room? And for that matter, why are you kneeling!?”

It was Locke, who was panicking at the sight of those two people.
He was looking back and forth between Wynn, who had his arms crossed, and Leticia, who was in a seiza pose.

“Etto, Should I prepare black tea?”

“Calm down, Locke. It’s going to be breakfast time soon.”

Locke, who was preparing to rush out in his pajamas to get tea from the dorm dining hall, was stopped by Wynn.

“Etto, Locke-san? Please, don’t worry about it.”

The kneeling Leticia bowed to Locke with a troubled smile. Bokon.

“Aah. Why the heck is Leticia-sama in our dorm! Why is she kneeling! I don’t get it! Explain!”

The confused Locke shouted.

“Are? Didn’t you first meet Leti yesterday? Don’t you know her?”

Locke was getting the urge to hurt the nonchalant Wynn.
Looking closer, Locke’s face was on the verge of tears.

“For those who read the news, there is now way they wouldn’t know her!”

“Maa, calm down.”

“Or rather, why is Leticia-sama kneeling there!? Somehow, somebody please

explain it to me!”

Having been grabbed by the collars by Locke, Wynn looked at Leti.

“Well… come here.”

Standing from the bed, Wynn invited Locke to the window.
While minding the kneeling Leticia, he stood beside Wynn.

“Huh? What is this?”

Locke looked outside the window and — It was as if a hurricane had passed through. Leaves were scattered all over the place, and the branches were stripped bare.

“Well, it was supposed to be morning practice as always but…”

Wynn told the surprised Locke about the events that occurred while he was asleep that morning.

“Onii-chan!”

“Na… Le, Leti!?”

The kenki was fierce.[1]
Jumping out from the shadow of the building, the real person in Wynn’s imagination appeared.
Leticia swung her sword horizontally.

Kiin!

“Be…”[2]

He stopped the blow with the edge of his sword, but needed all his body weight.
The wind pressure from her swing hit Wynn hard, and Wynn’s body somehow endured the hit.
Wynn appeared slender, but that was due to his training since childhood tightening his muscles, so he weighed more than he seemed.
Wynn was not blown away by the strike’s force, but he wondered: Where was the power in Leti’s slender arm?
Somehow, he was able to ward off Leticia’s blow.

There, in that small area, they exchanged blows.

Against Leticia's dizzying strikes, sometimes stabbing, sometimes slashing, he warded off the heavy blows while searching for an opportunity to counterattack. He was only able to weather the blows, and was unable to counterattack.

"You've become stronger since the last time I saw you!"

"You too, Onii-chan, not many people can push me this far, you know?"

Leticia smiled while swinging the sword.
She had a smug grin on her face.
She still had not gone all out.
In fact, each one of her blows could have been faster.

It was as if she had no limits…

Desperately trying to follow the fast strikes, Wynn continued to wait for his chance.
The work of defending against her many attacks strained his mind.
If he lost focus for a moment, he would be taken down in the blink of an eye.

Therefore, he aimed at the moment when Leticia made an especially deep step to attack– Kiin!

He used the force of her blow to move himself away from her.

Arranging his breathing, he glared at Leticia.

"Leti."

"What is it? Onii-chan."

Finally getting an opportunity —
He slowly lowered his sword in both hands, while approaching Leticia.
Leticia also held her sword in both hands and lowered it, questioning Wynn's actions.

"Well…"

"Yes?"

Putting his left hand to his forehead, he slowly looked around him.

"You. What will you do about this?"

“Aah.”

Wynn’s gaze fell on the leaves on the ground, and the bare branches, caused by Leticia’s sword strike.

After that, Wynn and Leticia ended up trading their swords for brooms, and spent an hour sweeping.

“… And that was what happened this morning.”

“…Ah, well, what can I say…”

With a speechless face, Locke looked at the still kneeling Leticia.

Since the dorm used to be the palace, there were various protective magics in place.
Since it was to be used as a school, a layer of soundproofing magic added.
Unlike when it was a palace, now noble children lived there. Since nobody was awake as early as Wynn was during his special training, complaints about the noise from training would often reach the administration.
Since there was no damage to the dorm, and few people knew who caused the commotion, there was no problem… except for the trees.

“Good grief…”[3]

Wynn was standing in front of Leticia with his arms crossed.
The Leticia that was looking at Wynn with upturned eyes actually seemed like a girl her age.
Thus, Wynn began to speak.

“De, Why the heck did you suddenly attack me?”

“It’s been a long time since we met, hasn’t it? I wanted Onii-chan to see my strength.”

“Even so, didn’t you just suddenly do something reckless!”

“Ugh…”

At Wynn’s sharp reprimands, Leticia slumped her body.

“Even if your skills have markedly improved, you didn’t notice your surroundings at all, did you?”

From there, Wynn's long tirade started– to which Locke said "Just leave it be already," interrupting him after half an hour.
At Locke's words, Leticia, who was kneeling while hanging her head, looked up at Wynn.

"Na, Leticia-sama has already reflected."

To Locke's words, Leticia assented with a "mhmm"[4]
With her teary-eyed expression, the Brave's former dignity was completely gone.

"Well, since Locke said so, and it's time for breakfast soon…"

"Un, I'm hungry."

At the first sign that his sermon was ending, Leticia immediately thought of her hunger.
It was due to the sword match they had.
Even Braves get hungry.
Due to having been in seiza for a while, Leticia stood up unsteadily.

"Hora."

"Nn, Thank you."

Leticia smiled delightedly at Wynn, who was helping her up.

"By the way…"

Locke called out to the two people.

"How is Wynn so close to Leticia-sama?"

"Why? It's because we are childhood friends."

Leticia, who was still unsteady, replied.

"Before Leti left four years ago, we were together. She's my best friend."

"Best friend…"

For a moment, Leticia's face clouded over, and she muttered, but Wynn and Locke didn't hear her.

I never thought that we would meet again, but now she has returned.

"Return?"

Was it returning from the Maou suppression?
Locke interjected.

”Well, you are the daughter of a nobleman after all, but never did I think you would get married away at 10. But Leti, did you wave your sword like that at your new family as well? Seems like you met a nice sword tutor there as well, but you know, that’s precisely why you’ve been sent back home, right?”

Wynn basically only worked and trained after class, to pay his expenses.
Thus, within the school, he, who was a commoner, only knew several people, including Locke.
Hence, Wynn didn’t know.
At least, he knew that the Brave had defeated the Demon Lord, but had never heard the name of the Brave.
Furthermore, having never seen the newspapers of the wealthy (Locke saw the news while staying at his parent’s estate during the break), it was natural that he did not see the portrait of the Brave.

Leticia and Locke were speechless.

For Leticia, it was because she was misunderstood as having been married off on the trip.
For Locke , it was because he was amazed at Wynn’s ignorance.
Thus, he considered Wynn’s attitude towards Leticia a while ago.

‘Well, in some cases, ignorance is bliss…’

Nonetheless, if Wynn knew that Leticia was the Brave, his attitude wouldn’t have changed.

Translator notes

1. Sword pressure – Intent to attack with the sword – killing intent – Something hard to translate.back
2. a grunt of sorts?back
3. Literally: completely.(「全く……」the idiom)back
4. mhmm was an onomatopoeiaback

<–Chapter 7 Chapter 9–>

cloverSK has told me that he's too busy with uni to continue, so it's just me, for better of for worse. I never was good at group projects… I'm either uninvolved or domineering… Anyways, this should be a more legible version. I wrote a program yesterday to create wordpress footnotes without using the anchors to show the raws, since that was getting annoying for me and some of the readers. However, it may be harder for any volunteer editors that may help me edit… maybe.

Random Questions

- Just out of curiosity… (LINK)
- Who bothered to find the hidden link in Ch 7?

Thanks to:

- Turtle Master, as always.

Chapter 9 will be out when I finish editing it.

Chapter 9

No raw comparison due to file problems… explanation below.

Discord

“Brave!? Mavis-sama the Brave? The Mavis House’s third daughter?”

As Leticia was still unfamiliar with the Knight School, she lived in the female dorm used exclusively by those of high nobility. As for Wynn, Leticia confessed to him that she was the “Brave”.

“Un, That’s me? Leticia van Mavis.”

“So it’s true? …I didn’t know…”

Wynn looked closely at Leticia, who was walking beside him.[1]
Who would’ve thought that the rumored Brave was his close friend.

“From the first time we met, I thought she was a noble, but I never heard her full name. I didn’t care who she was, or where she was from. However, that the Brave’s name was Mavis… I did hear.”

Wynn would frequently hear about the Brave’s journey from the merchants and adventurers who stayed at the “Wataridori Pavilion”[2] while he worked at the inn.
The view of children of the town playing the “Mavis the Brave” game, swinging around wooden swords, was commonly seen.
Aside from the merchants and adventurers that traveled to the city, bards and minstrels performed stories of the Brave’s feats to the public.

In order to save the prince of a certain country who was turned to stone, she subdued the demon who cursed him, and lifted the curse.

In another country, she defeated a priest who sacrificed a person every night in order to revive an evil god, and rescued the captured people.

Furthermore, she retrieved a rare herb from an unexplored ancient forest in

order to cure an unknown illness spreading through a city.
When it turned out that the the cause of the illness was a dragon living in a nearby cave who emitted miasma, she subjugated the dragon.
As for the purification —

When it spread that the Brave was the empire's Mavis Ducal House's hidden third daughter, the empire's citizens felt a patriotic pride in being the Brave's home country.
The Empire itself widely publicized the actions of the Mavis House's third daughter.
Wynn, who had read tales of heroic knights since childhood was also excited about the tales of the Brave who wandered the earth.
Now that he had grown, he knew that the knights that appeared in those epic tales didn't exist in reality.
However, the existence of the "Brave" taught him that those storybook knights were not merely a dream.
Although the Brave's feats were impossible for Wynn, if only he at least had a tenth of the strength, he would protect those who were suffering, as a knight.[3]
That was something he aspired to be.[4]

The Mavis House's third daughter that he aspired to be, he didn't think she would be his friend Leti.

He looked at Leticia, who was beside him.

As in the past, his friend walked beside him.
Two years younger than him, her height did not even reach his shoulder, she had a delicate figure. [5]
Fighting the Demon Lord, the subordinate demons, and the monsters, it was more severe than the stories.

'I will try my hardest, so that I can return as soon as possible!'

The promises exchanged four years ago– He thought that those words wouldn't come true.
Nevertheless, she had now returned, and was walking beside him, as she had promised.

“You’ve tried your best, haven’t you, Leti.”

At the words that escaped from Wynn’s lips, Leticia’s feet stopped for a moment, causing her to hurriedly catch up after falling behind.

“Un!”

She showed a delighted, sparkling smile.

Four years ago, Leticia was unable to reveal that she was from the Mavis House.

She feared that Wynn would distance himself from her if he knew that she was a noble.
Generally, in an Imperial Knight Order, individuals did not use family names.
Officially, they use Knight Order rankings in order to prevent nobles from flaunting their influence in the court. [6]
The knight school adopted this practice. For example, Wynn Byrd would formally be called “Knight Cadet Wynn”, and not “Knight Cadet Byrd”, and Locke would not be called “Knight Cadet Marine”, but rather “Knight Cadet Locke”.

Even if she were a lady of nobility, Wynn wouldn’t have to call her by her family name.
However, Leticia was more famous than she would have wanted. [7]

She was known as the “Divine Sword Princess”, “One Closest to God”, and “Leticia van Mavis, the Brave”.

As the third daughter of the Empire’s Mavis Ducal House.

Leticia snuck a glance at Wynn beside her. [8]
Four years ago, they were approximately the same height.
Now, Leticia’s head did not even reach Wynn’s shoulders, and his young-ish body was growing into a strong build, and supple muscles.[9]

That morning, when they crossed swords, Wynn was several times stronger than she remembered four years ago.
The source of Leticia’s art, which earned her the name “Divine Sword Princess”, was most definitely Wynn.
It was the swordsmanship that fascinated her when she escaped to the town for

the first time and met him.
Compared to that time, being more skillful with his sword techniques, he would have excelled if requirements were met, which the chances were probably were very few of at this school.[10]

Throughout her journey, she fought many enemies.
Many times, she had near death experiences, feeling despair.

However, in the end, Leticia would not give up and continued to fight.
Even with her magic power empty, and her companions injured, with only her spirit and sword unbroken, she would tear apart myriads of demons.
The swordsmanship that Leticia learned from Wynn was her greatest tool.

Therefore…

“You’ve tried your best, haven’t you, Leti.”

“Un!”

At Wynn’s words, Leticia, from the bottom of her heart, felt delighted and relieved.[11]
Rather than being known as “The Brave”, or as “The daughter of a noble”, her relation ship with Wynn as the pupil of her “Master” would not change from now on.
For this reason, she couldn’t help but marvel.

How was Wynn unable to become an apprentice knight?
While standing beside him, Leticia looked up to Wynn.
In order to find out, she asked him.

“Ne, what do we learn in Knight School?”

“If we were to talk about the lessons, then there are two types of of classes, theory and practice. Practical combat classes include swordsmanship, spearmanship, or another martial art. Scout arts, stealth arts, survival arts are taught in the field. Magical combat classes are split into three types. Theory classes include tactics and military history, and of course, history and heraldry. Finally, there is Linguistics.”[12]

“Onii-chan, What classes do you take?”

“Well, for combat classes, martial arts and swordsmanship is required, but I also take the knife arts class. I also study history.”[13]

“Fuun, so it’s like that.”

“What will you take, Leti?”

“I am too late to join a combat class, so I am focusing on studying the theory classes. Ah, but I plan on enrolling in the magic classes.”

“So you’re focusing on the theory classes.”

“But Leti’s strength is moving your body, and not using your brain though.”

“After all, I left when I was ten, didn’t I? I couldn’t study during the journey.”

Leticia became sullen, hitting Wynn’s head with a ‘pon pon’ sound.

“Ah, Wynn. Leticia-sama.”

“What is it, Locke?”

He suddenly called out from behind them.
Locke had been walking behind them for sometime now.
Since they seemed strange from the side, Locke walked behind them while looking around restlessly.

“What is it? Is your stomach sore?”

“No it isn’t!”

Seeing his friend with a pale face, Wynn called out to him in worry, but received a denial in a suppressed shout.

“You two, with this much attention on you, don’t be so calm!”

Looking around them, before they had noticed, Wynn and Leticia (and Locke…) were being stared at by the students headed to class.

“O, Oi. That, Isn’t that Leticia-sama?”

“Un. I saw her yesterday at the entrance ceremony, but, I didn’t see her this close!”

“But, who are the two boys beside Leticia-sama? Did we see them at the evening party?”

“Well, the boy beside her, I know. Isn’t he Wynn Byrd? I’m sure, that he’s the one that failed the selection test three times in a row.”

“For real? Such a guy exists? I could easily become a knight if I asked my father.”

“Me too, me too!” [14]

“I know, right? The examination is but a formality, since you can just pay to pass it.” [15]

“That guy, the commoner? There is no way that he can afford to pay.”

“Haa!? Such a person aiming to be a knight? I think not!”

“Hahaha!”

“Wynn felt as if somebody had poured cold water on his back.”
Though he said nothing, Locke noticed it.
However, he acted like he didn’t care.
He suddenly started chewing on his lower lip.

He had shown strength so far.
He understood his social status clearly. [16]
The people who attended here were either nobles, knights or children of rich people.
Locke was no exception.
If Locke had lived a life fitting his status, Wynn would have never gotten to know him.

Besides…

As they said, to become an apprentice knight, one needs money.

To be precise, connections and money.

“Wynn, don’t mind their words, okay?”

Locke patted him on the shoulder.

“Why is that beggar walking with Leticia-sama? There is a limit to not knowing one’s social status.”

Their words pierced his chest.

‘She’s Lady Leticia van Mavis, the Brave.’

Without having changed since four years ago, they met.

In those days, I didn’t know.
In those days, she wasn’t the Brave yet.

She was just a lost child. Now, I know who she really is.
To Wynn, she was a person who lived in a completely different world.
It felt like the Leticia who was once close to him suddenly became a distant figure.

“Onii-chan?”

Leticia looked at him with a worried face.

By all accounts, commoners like Wynn shouldn’t exchange words with her.
Only an innocent child could call her “Leti” so familiarly.
But now, he wasn’t a child anymore.

“Sorry, Leti… Leticia…-sama, Locke. I’ll go on ahead.”

Turning away, without seeing the two’s faces, Wynn started running.
Leticia and Locke were left behind, motionlessly looking at his back.

Translator notes
1.Need to figure out grammar for shimau back
2.wataridori=Migratory Birdback
3.How do the long dashes differ in Japanese and English? (勇者のような活躍はウィンには無理であろうが、その十分の一でもいい――力なき者を守れる騎士となろう。)back
4.憧れと共に強く思ったものだ。back
5.seems to be a description of now…back
6.wording. 建前上、騎士団の中ではその位階を優先させるため、宮廷内での序列を持ち出さないようにするためだ。back
7しかし、自分から望んだわけではないにしろ、彼女は有名になりすぎてしまった。back
8.subject? レティシアは横を歩いているウィンの顔をちらりと盗み見る back
9. parts of the sentence… しかし今ではレティシアの頭はウィンの肩までしかなく、彼の体つきもまた少年っぽさが抜けしなやかな筋肉のついた、たくましい体付きになりつつある。back

10.what? あの頃よりも一際冴え渡らせたその剣技は、条件さえ満たせば・・・・・・・彼を上回るものは恐らくこの学校においても少ないだろう。back
11.lazy me. ぽつりと漏れたウィンのその言葉に、レティシアは心の底から喜びを覚え、そして安堵したのだ。back
12.apparently, heraldry studies ceremonial etiquette and ceremonies and stuff. This was long…授業は大まかに言えば、実技と座学の二種かな。実技は剣術や体術、槍術なんかの実技戦闘術学科。斥候術や隠密術、野外生存術などの野戦学科。それと魔法戦闘学科の三種に分かれてる。座学は戦術や戦史はもちろん歴史や紋章学、後は言語学とか幅広いよ back
13.まあ、戦闘術学科では剣術と体術は必須だから、あとはナイフ術などの近接戦闘。学科は歴史関係を勉強してるかな。back
14.help… him too me too? おれもおれもback
15.The backbiting section was hard to understand… Especially since it's also not enjoyable to translate…だよな？　試験なんて形式として受けるだけなんだから、金で買っちまえばいいのに The whole section around that line could use tlc…back
16.身分違いなのは、自分が一番よくわかっている。back

<–Chapter 8 Chapter 10–>

Translation Assistant occasionally loses control of the Ctrl+key functions, so sometimes save shortcut fails me, and I lose the translation… I had copied it elsewhere, but when I tried to salvage it, the lines didn't match up. Any kind souls wanting to edit will have to go to the original raw site. Such an unfortunate event for a chapter that has 16 footnotes…

This story seems to be told in a loopy fashion:

1. Start
2. Jump forward
3. Flashback go further
4. Repeat 2 and 3.

Thanks to:

- Seinvolf, for minor grammar errors…

Chapter 10

GDoc here.

First class (1)

“First off, let me congratulate you on your enrollment.”

They were at the Knight School’s practice field.
Since the vast field was originally used by the royal palace, the school repurposed several gardens to build the training field.
A stone wall separated the field from its surroundings, and many wooden training dummies were lined along the wall.
At several points, sheds were built, containing practice swords that would be available when needed.
In a corner of the practice field…
Gathered there, were 20 of the new freshmen.
They stood around a gigantic man, who began to speak.

First off, I’ll introduce myself. I am your instructor for the first year, Aldo. I don’t care who you are or from where you came. Either way, be prepared to train until you can stand on your own two legs.

Aldo surveyed the students that encircled him.
He was surrounded by 20 nervous faces, students ranging from 12 years old to 16 years old.
Since it was the freshmen’s first class, and he wanted to see their real ability, he wouldn’t be lecturing, and everybody was swallowed by the atmosphere. [1]
He looked at the class register in his left hand.
The register contained all 20 names listed, but rather than their given names, their full names were listed. [2]
Within Knight School, one was not allowed to use their family name, or call themselves acquaintances of the house, the school didn’t care about the students’ origins.

However, the faculty was an exception, and so such a list was prepared.
Scanning the list, Aldo singled out two names from the list.
Looking up from the list, he once again looked at the students.

"First, I want to see your ability. divide yourselves into groups of two."

At his words, the students stood by their partners, promptly forming pairs.

'As I thought, it turned out like that.'

Seeing the course of events, Aldo gave a slight nod,
As he had expected, the two students he noted were the last ones remaining unpaired.
Though they were standing idly to the edges of the group, the other students merely avoided them, and in the end nobody partnered up with them.

One of those students was Knight Cadet Wynn.
Having entered school for four times, and being of lowly origins, he was a boy with an unusual background.[3]
And the other person was a female student — Knight Cadet Cornelia[4]
Among the students, those two stood out.
The reason being that they were both at least two years older than the other students.
At sixteen, they just barely met the age requirement of enrolling.
Since most of the students were between 12 and 14 years old, their ages would obviously stand out.
It was natural for the other students to avoid those two.
Moreover, Knight Cadet Wynn's reputation as a four-time repeater may have influenced their actions.

In the end, the way the students divided themselves turned out as Aldo had expected.[5]

"Yosh, the pairs should spread out, so that I can see your individual abilities. Show me both martial arts and magic. Each partner should take enough distance from each other."

The students spread out in the practice field.
Among the students, Aldo especially observed Wynn and Cornelia, while crossing

his arms.

‘Well, whether they have good or bad intentions, the other noble cadets’ treatment should push them to do better.[6]

After confirming that there are ten pairs, Aldo issued orders with a clear voice that had been tempered by many battles as a knight.

“Yosh, First off,”

With this, the Knight Cadets’ first class in Knight School began.

To the left of the group fanned out before Aldo, there Wynn stood. [7]
Compared to every other student, he was one or two heads taller.
Of course, being two years older than them also didn’t help.

“First, I want to see your ability. divide yourselves into groups of two.”

At Aldo’s words, the class began to make pairs, and Wynn also called out to a few people. However…[8]

“Umm…”

When he called out to one of them, the student would hurriedly flee, and partner up with somebody else.
Apart from the age difference, the already paired students were whispering behind his back.
Since none of the gazes directed at him contained favourable impressions, it seemed that they all knew Wynn’s background as a four-time-repeater and commoner.

‘I’ve had it…’[9]

Since there were twenty students, ten pairs would need to be made.
Hence, nobody should be left out.
If it ends up like that, then he would just find somebody who was wandering around aimlessly alone– Even if he made a pair in that way, he didn’t know if they would enjoy it.[10]
Since he wouldn’t get a partner without talking, he first searched the students around him. [11]
‘As for somebody who is the same age…’

Wynn spotted a girl in a similar situation.
'It would be better if it were a male partner, but it can't be helped.'

"Ano, excuse me."

He approached her, and called out to her.

"If you're alone, would you like to form a pair with me?"

"Ah, yes. I would be happy to, if that's fine with you."

The girl smiled, feeling relieved.

"That's great. My name is Wynn."

"I'm Cornelia. Please take care of me."[12]

It seemed that the girl named Cornelia did not know about Wynn's circumstances.
Rather, it seemed to Wynn that she was also avoided by the other classmates.
Her looks were not ugly.
With shoulder-length pale blonde hair, good looks, rather than a beautiful woman, she would probably be described as lovely.[13]
For this reason, Wynn thought that it was strange that she hadn't been called out.
Perhaps, Wynn thought, the reason she was avoided was that she was older than the rest.
Following the instructor's directions, Wynn followed her, moving from their location, but, for some reason, Leticia's figure overlapped with hers, and he stopped paying attention. [14]

'Leti.'

While he walked, he recalled the morning's events when he left Leticia.

He had suddenly lost his cool, and he regretted it.

He was aware that he had acted harshly.
He selfishly distanced himself, even though her attitude after revealing that she was the Brave didn't change.[15]

Even so….

If he thought about how he should act around Leticia, he couldn't think of what was best for her.
She was the "Brave", and the "Third Daughter of a Duke".
'There has to be an appropriate partner fitting those titles.'[16]
'Either way, it wouldn't be good if I hung around her.'

"Umm…"

'Come to think of it, I also left Locke behind at that place, but I have to apologize to him tonight at the dorm.'

"Ahem!"

"Oops…"

Turning his head, he saw Cornelia pulling at Wynn's right sleeve.

"Mou, don't you think we've taken enough distance?"

While he was deep in thought, they had already walked far enough from other pairs to spar freely.
It seemed that they were now the furthest group from instructor Aldo.

"Ah, yeah."

They stood, waiting for the instructor's directions, and soon after, Aldo raised his right hand.

"Yosh, first is the one on one mock battle observation!"[17]

Although they were so far away, Aldo's voice reached where Wynn and Cornelia stood.

"Today, no special restrictions were prepared. Fight freely. Only, do not inflict grave injuries on your opponent! Well then, Begin!"

Wynn drew his sword when the instructor signaled the beginning.
The the edges of the swords used for training were dulled.
He gripped his sword while observing Cornelia, who had drawn her sword and began chanting her magic.

"Strengthen me!"

She was instantly wrapped in a faint light.

It was the most basic spell of the Enhancement System Magic, Strengthening Magic.[18]
Among the other students scattered across the field, it wasn't only Cornelia who was wrapped in a light.

Only Wynn was the exception.

"Are you not going to use magic?"

Cornelia was doubtful of Wynn, who didn't chant magic.
Using Strengthening Magic to increase speed and strength was the foundation of a knight's combat style.
In spite of this, Wynn, who invited her to pair up, only calmly held his sword.

"Un, Don't mind me. When you're ready."

"If you say so…!"

She stopped hesitating.
While calling out, Cornelia kicked the ground, springing towards Wynn.
The difference in strength between somebody strengthened by magic and somebody who is not was like the difference between an adult and a child.
Closing the distance, she thrust her sword at Wynn.

However —

At the same time Cornelia leapt, Wynn also leapt forward.

'It can't be!? Fast!'[19]

At about the same time — No, Cornelia was quicker– despite this, Wynn closed the distance faster than her.
Before Cornelia could think, Wynn had taken the initiative.
With a horizontal slash, his sword locked with hers.
Then, Wynn was able to gradually push Cornelia back.
To Cornelia, it seemed unlikely that Wynn had used strengthening magic.

That meant that his speed was his own ability.

Deciding to power through the resistance,Wynn pushed aside the sword with a burst of strength.
At the moment Cornelia lost her balance, Wynn leapt back.

Cornelia immediately fixed her stance and prepared to attack, but at the next moment, Wynn closed the distance and attacked again.
Without being able to react to his speed —

"Ah…"

Her sword had been sent flying to the ground.
Cornelia looked at Wynn with amazement.
Wynn took one step, two steps backwards, and lightly sheathed the sword in his right hand.

It was so sudden, she was unable to believe it.
Cornelia didn't think that she excelled compared to the other students.
No, rather, she believed that compared to the others, she was slightly weaker.
However, she didn't think that she would lose to an unstrengthened person.
Especially that slash that disarmed her.
Far from being able to react, she was unable to see the sword's movements.

'Why is this person on the cadet level? Couldn't he actually be an instructor?'

She looked at Wynn with suspicious eyes.

"Ah, well, sorry. Though I intended to aim at only the sword, did I hurt you?"

Misunderstanding her gaze, Wynn worriedly asked her.
With enough strength to leave both her hands numb, she couldn't accept this kind of defeat within the school.(TL: guessy, and kinda important to character development. Read with a pinch of salt.) [20]
Without responding to Wynn's question, Cornelia picked up her sword.
As she picked it up, she saw that the other students were still fighting.
At the moment, only Cornelia and Wynn's group had finished their spar.[21]

"Umm, If you would like, we could have another match?"

The other students had not yet finished.
There was still time left.

'There is an overwhelming difference between our abilities.'

'Wynn's abilities are definitely not on the level of a cadet.'
'In that case, then I want to test my full abilities.'

“Yes please. I would like a rematch.” [22]

Wynn once again prepared his sword.
From there, he stopped moving, seeming to wait for Cornelia to chant strengthening magic once again.

‘If that’s the case…’

“Strengthen me!”

She once again cast strengthening magic.
But that wasn’t all.

“I, who understands the flame and the sword, show on my blade!” I must find my inner Chuuni to make a cool chant… not yet… Any WN suggestions with cool chants to reference (and more to my reading list)?

The blade became wrapped in red flames.

“Enhancement magic’s ‘Enchant’!?”[23]

Wynn raised his voice in surprise upon seeing a magic rarely used in Knight School.

‘ That’s not all!’

*“I, who understands the way of humanity, bind him!”*More chants…「我、人の理を知りて彼の者を戒める縛鎖を放つ！」

“Ugh!”

Now, his swift movements felt heavier.

‘Enchant’ was a magic in the Enhancement System.

The Enhancement magic system involved strengthening the caster’s body, or magically enhancing other objects and people. [24]

However, few knights liked to practice enhancement magic.

First of all, the effective duration of enhancement magic was short.
At the longest, it lasted 10 minutes.

Engraving magic words onto the blade of the sword made the blade a permanent magic tool, but it would be too long-lasting for a short battle. [25]

Enhancement magic could also be used to strengthen others, but that also has cons.
Compared to using it on oneself, the effectiveness of strengthening magic was 3-5 times weaker when used on other people.
Even if the targeted person was willing, their body would still unconsciously resist the effects.
Since the town's adventurers did not have enough time to study both magic and swordsmanship, and not many nobles and wealthy people favored Enhancement magic, there were few experts.

Therefore —

Although it was impractical on the battlefield, it is effective in a one on one battle.
Holding up her flaming sword, Cornelia once again attacked Wynn.

AN: Since it was long, I cut it here.
Is the explanation of magic here good?
Sorry for the poor explanation.

Translator notes

1. Part about swallowed by the atmosphere. 新入生にとって初回の授業であるため、今日は彼らの実力を見る程度の内容しか講義しないつもりだと伝えていたのだが、どうやらみな雰囲気に呑まれてしまっているようだ。–back
2. full or given names? その名簿には彼の担当している生徒二十名の名前が、フルネームで記載されていた。–back
3. Probably need to word the school process better. There's a selection test/exam at the end of first year, that makes them knight apprentices(lit: quasi-knight; any suggestions with this term?). Wynn failed 3 times, and has to restart.–back
4. コーネリア… bets on whether or not she's a love interest? triangle or harem? tragic backstory, or actually an important person? predicting the cliches before you all do. TL rights.–back
5. とりあえずは、アルドの予想通りの組分けにはなりそうであった。–back
6. Not catching the meaning… さて、あいつら二人がいい意味でも悪い意味でも、他の貴族の候補生どもの刺激になってくれればいいが。–back

7. Wynn was on Aldo's left. Wording?–back
8. These hyphenated incomplete sentences… —back
9. According to the dictionary: Non idiom: I'm annoyed. Idiom: I give up. Mine took a middle ground… not sure which one he means, though he is a determinator, so…–back
10. ???enjoy it? となれば、一人でうろうろしている生徒を探し出せばいいのだが――この調子では例えペアを組むことができたとしても、相手が本気で自分の相手をしてくれるかどうかわからない。–back
11. First part of English sentence was a liberal guess とはいえ、組まないことには話にもならないわけで、とりあえず自分と同じ境遇の生徒を探す――いた。–back
12. Japanese politeness: Yoroshiku onegai shimasu… I think this is the usual translation…–back
13. Any synonyms that fit better for beautiful person (美人) sentence means that it's a different sense of beauty.–back
14. badly worded…–back
15. I think my subject is right. 勝手に引いてしまったのは自分の方だったし、彼女は自らが勇者であることを明かしても態度を変えることがなかった。–back
16. inferiority complex?–back
17. 「よし、まずはペアで模擬戦闘をしてみろ！」what does the "miru" mean? observation?–back
18. I am open to suggestions for names of magic. Can't recall the cliches right now…–back
19. literally: Uso(it's a lie)!? Hayai(Fast)!–back
20. Best guess… 確かに強烈な一撃で両手は痺れていたが、この程度で音を上げていてはこの学校ではやっていけない。?–back
21. というか、コーネリアとウィンの組だけが一瞬で終わってしまったに過ぎなかったようだ。–back
22. 「そうだね。せっかくだし、もう一度お願いします」–back
23. To george766h, and others curious: no element symbol.「付与魔法エンチャント！？」–back
24. OSO's Yun's enchant magic, it seems–back
25. Not sure what's the drawback here… 剣身に魔法文字を刻みこみ、効果時間を永続させている魔法武器であればともかく、戦場において使用するには致命的に効果時間が短すぎた。–back

<–Chapter 9 Chapter 11–>

Chapter 11

GDoc here. Chapter 10 better edited, but still has alot of footnotes of uncertainty…

First Class (2)

(AN:Continued from last time…)[1]
‘I’m not giving him the initiative this time, I’ll take the first move!’

Cornelia swung the sword wrapped in flames.
As expected, Wynn didn’t plan on receiving the brunt of the blow, but rather repel it, but his sword loudly collided. [2]
Wynn’s stance was broken.
Unlike the previous time, Cornelia was the one chasing Wynn.
The magic《Binding Chains》had taken effect. [3]
Cornelia stepped forward, aiming a stab at his chest.
Holding his sword with only his right hand, Wynn deflected the stab while kicking the ground to gain distance.

Wynn felt the force of the impacts each time Cornelia attacked..
Each of Cornelia’s blows were heavy.
Even though they were using longswords of similar sizes, Cornelia’s sword strikes were as heavy as if she were using a greatsword.
His unreinforced sword would break if he continued to take the blows.
The flames around the blade were also a problem.
If they locked swords, Wynn would be burnt by the heat.
Since those flames didn’t affect the caster, Cornelia didn’t feel the heat.
Compared to Cornelia, who was strengthened by strengthening magic, Wynn was at a disadvantage.
Certain of her advantage, Cornelia continued her assault.
She made successive slashes.
As if he were dancing, Wynn dodged and parried all of the blows.

With his movements restricted, and at the same time, affected by the heat, Wynn concentrated on defending without being able to consider a counterattack.

He thought that they would continue to exchange blows like this.[4]

However, Cornelia's offensive stopped for a moment.
Her stamina was exhausted by having to maintain the continuous assault.
Cornelia's face distorted in a strained expression, she lifted her head to take a deep breath.
Seeing that moment's opportunity, Wynn immediately closed the distance.
With a low stance as if he were crawling, he rushed forward and thrust the tip of the sword at her neck.

At seeing this, Cornelia's body became weak, and Wynn slowly withdrew the sword.

"It is my complete and utter defeat…"

"Your flame enchantment magic was new to me. It was a valuable experience for me."

Wynn extended his right hand, and Cornelia accepted the handshake.

"To think you only beat me with sword skills. On the second match, were you waiting for me to run out of stamina?"

"I am confident in my endurance. However, I had no breathing room. My movements were restricted by magic. I had seen adventurers use it before, but after the first blow destroyed my stance, if the next attack were a little bit stronger, I would have lost."

Cornelia let out a slight smile.

"I can't believe that you're a cadet like me. I would be surprised if you were an instructor. Wouldn't you be stronger than a regular knight if you used magic?"

However —

"No, well, I…"

Wynn's face suddenly darkened, and Cornelia realized she touched a sensitive topic.

“I cannot use magic. I have no talent for it.”

“Talent…”

“That’s why, I have to train so that I won’t be defeated by anybody while only using the sword. No matter how much I practice, I can’t use magic. Moreover, people can never surpass their limits. However –” [5]

Wynn gripped the sword on his waist.

“Since many people win without having to practice, I could win against those dependent on magic”[6]

His previous expression vanished, and the light of determination shone in his eyes.

At his words, Cornelia was amazed.
Despite being the same age as her, this boy always forged ahead.
After those solemn words, Wynn gave a gentle smile.

“However, I’ve already failed the selection test three times. It seems that we should return to our places.”[7]

He saw that the other students had began to return to their original places.

She had heard the story of his failing three times, but…

Cornelia watched Wynn’s retreating figure.
Before sparring with him, she didn’t believe any of the rumors of him being a failure.

‘I see… That is the rumored Master of the Brave, Wynn Byrd.’

The Knight School Instructor Aldo looked at Wynn and Cornelia, who were among the students that had regrouped.
From the beginning of the mock battles, Aldo observed their distant spar, gazing steadily at Wynn and Cornelia. [8]
Originally, he didn’t look over everybody evenly, only heeding the few rumored students.
It was strange to not be worried.

At Aldo’s signal, the mock battles started.

In line with the theory, the students all began to use strengthening magic.
Wynn's partner, Cornelia was no exception.
From Aldo's point of view, he confirmed a slight light from Cornelia.
Wynn, however, did not move.
Without casting magic, with slow motions, Wynn merely drew his sword.
However, those movements were much more polished than the other students, even the battle-tested Aldo thought it looked good.
Wynn stood motionlessly with the sword held calmly in his right hand.

He waited for Cornelia to finish strengthening herself with magic.

Wynn was not in Aldo's class last year.
He only knew about him from a report from the person who was his instructor last year,
According to the instructor's report, he wasn't able to use magic since didn't have enough magic power.
That was he truth.
Being unable to put magic into the practice sword, or use the lowest level magic, his practical magic grades were rock-bottom. [9]

In reality, at the moment Cornelia finished strengthening herself with magic, Wynn's body contained no traces of magic.

However —

Despite Cornelia beginning to set up her sword earlier, Wynn closed the distance and attacked first.
Closing the distance instantly, he blocked Cornelia's slash. [10]
While they were locking swords, Wynn took the opportunity to disrupt her stance, then closed the distance again with a slash.
He aimed at Cornelia's sword with a slash, and her sword went flying out of her hands.

Cornelia's surprise was plainly visible.

She was probably unable to see Wynn's blade.
Even if it were Aldo, if he didn't use strengthening magic, he may not have been able to send the sword flying. [11]

The speed of his blade was overwhelming.[12]

'It was good that I saw it.' (Aldo)

If he paid attention to any of the other students, he would have missed it.

The level of the match was so much higher than the other students' matches, and was over in a matter of moments.

'Did those people realize that?' [13]
'It seems like they plan to have a rematch.'
Cornelia's body was once again enveloped in light.
Unlike the previous time, however, her sword became wrapped in flames.

'That was Enhancement System magic 'Enchant'!'

Aldo widened his eyes.
It was unpopular in the Knight School, so he had few opportunities to see it.

But Cornelia did use that magic.
In the next instant, Wynn's body was wrapped in a red light.
'It seems that Wynn was affected by some kind of magic.'

Among the adventurers, who mainly fought monsters, few used this fighting style.[14]
Of course, there were also knight orders that fought monsters.
Against especially strong monsters, one would use weakening magic, but even that job would fall to the Imperial Court Magicians, so the Knights wouldn't use it.

Cornelia, like Wynn, had a fighting style that deviated from the standard knight's fighting style.
While Wynn was affected by some sort of weakening magic, Cornelia started her assault. [15]
When Wynn tried to repel Cornelia's sword, his stance was destroyed.
At this, Cornelia stabbed at him, which he warded off skillfully.

After that, Cornelia unleashed successive attacks, but at the moment she tired out, Wynn held his sword to Cornelia's throat, claiming victory.

At a glance, it seemed like Cornelia had the upper hand, Wynn's patient

endurance eventually won out.

However, what impressed Aldo was not Wynn's victory, but his swordsmanship and agility — Even more monstrous though, was that it was the Brave's swordsmanship.
Those movements which seemed like a sword dance, reminded him of the time he had met the Brave.

Three years ago, while Aldo was stationed at a frontier Knight Order, he was on his way to subjugate a group of man-eating ogres.
There, he was able to see the form of Leticia the Brave.

At a certain village near the border…
There, scores of ogres attacked.

Aldo's knight order, upon receiving an urgent report, mobilized, but the scout platoon was unable to count the amount of ogres.
Even if the villagers were to abandon the village and escape, they would be overtaken and massacred.
Aldo's scout party's captain decided to stay in the village as a decoy in order to buy time for the villagers to escape.
Even then, the platoon numbered only ten people.
Ogres were, by nature, far stronger than humans, such that two or three knights would be needed against one of them.
Even if the knights stayed behind, the escaping villagers would be lucky to survive.

Nevertheless, in that remote village, there was only the hope of reinforcements arriving.

With their resolve to die, the knights persuaded the villagers to abandon the village, and while they prepared to fortify themselves, Leticia the Brave appeared.

Hearing of the impending Ogre attack, she had stopped by alone to help.
Telling the knights and the villagers the she would protect them all, she promptly stood outside the village, waiting for the ogres to attack.

At first, the knights were opposed to her fighting alone.
Even though she was the Brave, she was still a young girl.

The proud knights absolutely couldn't just watch the girl fight.
The scout platoon's captain approached Leticia.

However —

"I appreciate the sentiment, but I fight alone. Don't you have people you must protect? "[16]

She faced the crowd.
She saw anxious children, women, and elders.
The men who could fight had already died battling against the ogres, or were cooperating with the knights to fortify the village against the ogre's invasion.
Convinced that their duty was to protect, when the time came, they planned to fight with all their might.
However, Leticia smiled those who were about to argue.

"Don't worry. At the very least, I can buy time for everybody to escape."

With those words, Leticia exited the hastily fortified village.

'Thinking about it now. that smile clearly — clearly that smile showed that something had broken.'[17]

When the sun set, the forest came alive as ogres approached, one after another.

At the front, was an especially large ogre.
It was most likely the boss of the horde.

Leticia walked towards that ogre.
The weapon in her right hand was merely a sword.
At that time, the young girl around ten years old, whose height was similar to her sword, approached the three meter tall ogre.
Aldo, the knights, and the villagers were all behind her, watching her receding figure.

'Why didn't we detain her more strongly at the time?'

'Though she rejected our offer to fight with her, I can't just stand and watch,' was what everybody thought.
Several ogres were commanded by the horde boss to rush her.

With those bulging muscles, and crude bludgeon as a weapon, humans would become mincemeat.
That atrocious weapon swung down towards Leticia — The unaffected Leticia continued to advance.

‘Ha?’

On the verge of screaming, they closed their eyes, expecting a tragedy, but they couldn’t believe what they saw. [18]

After a moment — The ogres’ arms, legs and neck fell of from their bodies, with blood spurting out.

Nobody could understand what had happened.

Meanwhile, Leticia continued to walk towards the horde’s center.
Despite that, the corpses ogres that stood before her were scattered over the ground.

It was a sight that utterly lacked common sense.

Among the scattered corpses of the ogres, Leticia’s blurry figure was seen.

For no apparent reason, everybody shuddered.
Even though the knights were far away from her, they saw her massacring the ogres at an imperceptibly fast speed.

The knights were drenched in a cold sweat while watching this.

At the little girl spreading slaughter, the ogres tried to crush her to death by rushing her with overwhelming numbers.

However —

The blade slipped through the approaching ogres’ club wielding arms, sending their arms flying, then returned to send heads flying.
She used the ogres who tried to attack from behind as a foothold to launch into the air, kicking off of their heads. After kicking off of the ogre’s head, she attacked the ogre.

She was unstoppable. She didn’t stop.

The little girl danced a Danse Macabre. [19]

Covered in blood, Leticia expressionlessly mowed down the ogres.

Then, among the ogre horde, she approached the one thought to be the horde boss, the one with the large physique.
Dropping into a low stance, she severed both its legs.
Slipping between its legs, she kicked the ground and burst forward.
Thus, she defeated the Ogre Leader.

The place became quiet.

Only, with a gaze unfitting of the battlefield, Leticia looked down at the ogre on the ground.
Flicking off the blood from the blade, slowly, lifting her head up, she looked at the surrounding ogres.
At that gaze, the ogres who only knew battle felt fear, and the disarranged ogres fled away from Leticia, away from the village.

Leticia the Brave had driven away a horde of ogres.

The village was saved.

However, among the knights and villagers, none were able to move or let out cheers of celebration.

The girl before them, they feared Leticia the Brave.

She had just massacred the ogres as if they were insects.
It was an unbelievable feat for a human being.
Since the villagers and knights felt fear, she glanced at the village for a moment, then turned away without looking back, leaving them there.
Until her companions arrived, she took not one step, then left when they arrived. [20]

Even now, Aldo remembered it distinctly.

Compared to the lovely Danse Macabre, the impression of her smile was fleeting.
Therefore, upon seeing Leticia's smile at yesterday's entrance ceremony, he felt relieved from the bottom of his heart.
Even she smiled like an ordinary human.

Meanwhile, he still felt a prick of anxiety.

Perhaps, to her, that fight may have been one of many battles.
She who had slipped through that ghastly battlefield, was now harmoniously walking in the Knight School.

Although Wynn's magic grades were poor, his abilities were certainly not on the level of a cadet.
In spite of this, rumor has it that he had failed the examination due to an eminent noble's will.
A noble who held great influence over the knight orders.

If, by chance, the noble's unjust intentions became known —

Most likely, many injustices have been performed up until now.
Using money to determine the examination results would be merely the tip of the iceberg.
Using his influence, he would obstruct people that he didn't like from becoming a knight. This surely affected people other than Wynn in the past.
Up until now, such things went well.

However, this time, the target was that Wynn Byrd.

He was the rumored Master of the Brave.
When the truth came out, Leticia the Brave would take action.
With her unbelievable strength, she would oppose the Empire.
On top of being the Brave, she was also a duke's daughter in the line of succession for the throne.
She was the Empire's most important noble.

'It probably wouldn't go that far, but…'

Even Aldo, who became a teacher when he returned from the frontier, he was dumbfounded by the amount of injustices that were overlooked.
As somebody who became a knight from a soldier, he resented the Knight School's lax, lukewarm attitude.
Nevertheless, the test results were practically determined by bribery.
Aldo made his training strict as a minimal sign of resistance.
From now on though, the status quo might change.

This is because the person who Leticia the Brave revered as her master was Wynn Byrd.

‘He became my student.’

‘What qualities does he possess, that that Brave adores him so?’

This intrigued Aldo.

Translator notes

1. I think that it is essentially an Authors note, since it doesn’t fit…back
2. さすがにその剣をまともに受け止める気はないのか、ウィンは長剣で弾いた――が、逆にウィンの剣のほうが大きく弾かれてしまった。back
3. 《縛鎖》back
4. subject is unclear, maybe they both thought so…back
5. Character flaw:defeatism? Kick reason to the curb!back
6. not completely sure…back
7. 「でも、三度も連続で試験に落ちちゃってるけどね。そろそろ終わりみたいだし、教官の元へ行こうか」back
8. creep…back
9. 訓練用騎士剣に魔力を通したり、もしくは最低レベルの魔法に関しては使用できるとあったものの魔法実技の成績は地を這うものであった。back
10. Gesaltzerfall at this phrase… 一瞬で間合いを詰めるback
11. アルドであっても、自己強化の魔法を使用していなければ、同じように剣を弾き飛ばされて終わるのではないだろうか。back
12. そう思わせるほどの、圧倒的な剣速だった。back
13. 当人たちもそう思ったのだろう。back
14. こういった戦い方は、主に少数で魔物を相手にする冒険者達がよく取る戦闘方法だ。back
15. コーネリアが先手を取る。An idiom?back
16. ?「気持ちは嬉しいのだけど、私は一人で戦える。それに、あなたたちには守らなければならない人達がいるでしょう？」back
17. 今にして思えば、その笑顔は透明で――どこか壊れてしまいそうな笑顔だったように思う。back
18. structureback
19. Dance of death. (Google: Dance where Death leads the dead to their graves. Think Schera Zade.)back
20. やがて、彼女の仲間と思わしき迎えが来るまで、彼女は一歩も動くことはなく、村に立ち寄ることもなく去っていった。back

So, if you didn't see above, Chapter 10 looks nicer now… Please reread it if you read the ugly version… I am still eyeing a possible second back-burner project. Yuusha yori Saikyou na Kuro Kishi, dropped by Xant, is a possible candidate, but the raw updates slowly… Another one is Soshite shoujo wa akujo. I'm not promising anything fast or regular IF I do pick something up, especially since I have no idea how college works. I just wanted an alternative if I get burned out translating YnO (which may not happen either.) If I do pick something up, then I'll release a chapter or two once YnO's first part ends. Until then, I am open to suggestions!

The results of my RNG poll are here, with 110 responses at the time. Now you may be a better guesser if you have to pick a number from 1-10!

Random Questions:

1. Anybody know what happened to Kumo desu ga, nani ka the WN, in Japan?
    - Author busy with LN? Dropped?
    - Edit: updates happened the day after I asked. I am the elephant god.
2. The word Suggestion has novel pickup recommendations. As stated, no promises, just eyeing future possibilities.
    - Preferences:
        - Easy to translate (don't worry if you don't know if it is…)
        - Light comedy

Credits

- Nobody yet!

<–Chapter 10 Chapter 12–>

Chapter 12

GDoc here. Enjoy!

Leticia’s thoughts

AN: Since the first half is explanation, skipping it is fine. (TL: I don’t really agree? World building, and magic explanation…)

Since Simurgh Knight School was a repurposed palace, the ceilings were tall, and the walls and pillars exuded an air of solemnity.
The auditorium was once used as a meeting place for the imperial bureaucrats and the knight order. From the raised platform, chairs and desks were arranged in a fan-like formation, with the seats higher up they get closer to the back.
When it was a palace, many tactics and strategies were discussed there.
Now, instead of officers and executives in those seats, there sat students striving for knowledge.
That day, the first lecture of the school year, about the foundations of magic usage, was to be held.
Among the freshmen, however, were many upperclassmen who were apprentice knights. [1]
Seats already filled, there were many students standing.
Their objective was the girl on the stage.
Generals and officers once stood there, but as a school, instructors now stood there.
The one who was standing there was the girl who was the most famous person in the world: Leticia.
She had asked the instructors for the opportunity to stand there.

“The most important thing when using magic, no matter how fast you cast it, you must have a clear image in mind.”

She wore a soft smile, and her pleasant voice resounded throughout the auditorium.

“I believe that most of you have learned magic before you enrolled, but I want to demonstrate and review here.” [2]

When the instructor originally responsible for the class nodded at her from below the stage, Leticia held out her right hand

“I, who has understood the way of fire, light up!”

A small candle-like flame appeared on Leticia’s fingertip.

“This is one of the most basic spells of the Physics System magic, “Light”. The second part of the incantation: *“…who has understood the way of fire…”* shows that the caster has in mind his understanding of fire… including heat, light, color, form, and so on. These are the typical magic words in most cases of magic spells. Now, I will focus magic power into the spell.”

The flame on Leticia’s index finger grew to be as big as a head.

“… Wow…” [3]

Those words escaped from the mouth of somebody among the students. Beginning with that word, sighs of wonder and sounds of praise were heard. The flames flickered quicker and quicker.
She had demonstrated a perfect control of her magic power.

“If you use less magic power, then the magic’s effectiveness also decreases.”

In a moment, the flame shrunk from the size of a head to the size of Leticia’s fist.

“Then, to end the spell, if you stop supplying magic power, the spell will extinguish.”

Waving her hand, the flame disappeared.

“Like this, the effectiveness of magic can be changed by controlling the amount of magic power used. It can’t be helped that related to magical ability, is decided at birth. However, speed of invocation of magic power can be increased through training. Magical combat is not only decided by magical ability. Please keep in mind that a magic’s efficacy is also greatly influenced by speed of invocation.”

The students listened to her earnest words and took notes.

“Now, let’s move to the next stage — *“I, who has understood the way of fire, Fireball!”*

This time, a spherical flame the size of a head appeared atop Leticia’s palm.

“The difference just now lies in the third part of the incantation. The caster changed the image, and the magic materializes accordingly. What is important here, is that if one doesn’t thoroughly understand the image, the magic will fail. If one does not understand the phenomenon, even if there is an image, it will not materialize.”

Leticia turned her right palm upwards, holding it overhead.
At the same time, with a ‘Bon!’ sound, the fireball grew to twice its size.

“Now, the same amount of magic that was used to grow the torch magic was put into the fireball. If ten units of magic power were used for the spell, and ten more was added, then the effectiveness would be the equivalent of twenty units of magic power. If twenty units were used in the spell, and ten were added, you would end up with the effectiveness of thirty units of available magic. Does everybody understand? Since magic is directly proportional to the amount of magic power inputted, it is important to choose the magic. Naturally, when you use higher effectiveness magic, it takes longer to collect magic power, so one must use magic according to the situation. These concepts are the foundations of magic.”[4]

Once again, Leticia extinguished the flame, then bowed.
The sound applause arose, filling the auditorium.

“Incredible~!”

“Kyaa, Leticia-samaaa!”

The cheers and applause made the auditorium tremble.
With a slight smile and a deep bow, she descended from the stage.
Her gaze drifted to the window of the auditorium, where the garden remodeled into a practice field was.
There, a freshmen exclusive practical skills class was taking place.
Though she couldn’t see him clearly, Wynn should still be in class swinging his

sword.
For a moment, her feet stopped, but as if it were nothing, Leticia slowly made her way to the deepest part of the auditorium and sat down.
As Leticia left the stage, the original instructor rose to the stage, giving a supplementary explanation to Leticia's demonstration.
Due to this, the previously noisy auditorium returned to silence.
However, rather than the instructor's explanation, the students paid attention to Leticia, who sat in the back. [5]
Meanwhile, Leticia ignored the instructor's lecture, looking out the window.
She looked towards the practical skills class, while thinking of Wynn, who was among those students.

"Sorry, Leti… Leticia…-sama, Locke. I'll go on ahead."

The rift had opened up four years ago.
Before, it was physical distance, but now, their positions distanced Wynn and her.
A sigh leaked out.

(Back then, I didn't have to worry about such things…)

When they were young, Leticia would spend practically the whole day by Wynn's side.
It was due to the oracle's proclamation, that miraculously, suddenly, her surroundings conveniently set her up as the Brave, and she was dragged out from her most comfortable place. [6]

"Leticia, won't you show us your power?"

The day Leticia was pronounced the Brave, her father, Duke Mavis, asked her to show him her power.
After having been ignored by her parents, siblings, and her surroundings, for the first time in her life, they held expectations for her.
As a naive ten year old, nobody would blame her for being excited.
She used strengthening magic with all her strength.
At the knight who had his sword prepared, she took a step and faced him.
With tremendous speed, she struck at the sword of the defending knight.
One bout was all it took.

Leticia swung her sword, and the knight's sword flew from his hands.
As the sword fell to the ground, Leticia's knight opponent also fell over.
An ominous silence fell, due to everyone being shocked at the overwhelming strength she showed, until they finally came to their senses.

"O, Oh, Wonderful, Leticia. You are the pride of the Mavis House."[7]

"Your mother is also very happy."

Somehow squeezing out a sound, her parents spoke.
Leticia turned around with an elated smile.
However, contrary to the words, the crowd wore terrified expressions.
Even her parents. Similarly, her siblings, the servants, the Knight Order staffers, and clergy wore smiles and praised her strength, but their pupil betrayed their fear. [8]
Her opponent, who was a prominent knight officer in the Knight Order, was on the ground, sweating a lot, and his eyes looked at Leticia with fear.

That day on, Leticia's environment changed drastically, and she would experience the changes many times.
She understood that.
No matter how many people she rescues, no matter how many towns and cities she saves, no matter how many countries she helps, people would never accept her incomprehensible existence.

Thus, Wynn who had cared so much for her, became an indispensable existence to her.

Ever since she was a child, he was the only one that truly accepted her as she was.
Wynn might not have noticed.
He did not play with the other children.
But wouldn't people envy those who showed more talent than them, or otherwise reject the fact?
Many people she had met on her journey were like that.
Among them, only he didn't envy her, nor avoid her.

"Leti is amazing. You have become an amazing knight!"

Even before becoming the Brave, after being shown talents much higher than his, rather than envy, he faced her with a gaze of honest praise.
How amazing that was for her.
She realized this after she became the Brave.
She thought that she was no match for him.
Therefore, she was shocked.
She, who was the “Brave” and “Duke’s Third Daughter”, with a status she didn’t want, didn’t expect that he would distance himself–
Perhaps he thought that he was not suitable to be by Leticia’s side, the thought had never occurred to her. [9]
Not as “Brave”, not as “Duke’s Daughter”, not as a tool, not as an enemy, of all the people in the world, she wanted to be seen by Wynn as a person.
She couldn’t bear parting with that person.

‘Even if the rest of the world believes he is unsuitable for her , I will acknowledge him.’

Although he hadn’t been at school for long, he was put in a cruel, hostile environment.
The many students would backbite him, scorn him.
She heard from Locke, that he felt that the examinations were somehow unfair.

If that were true…

Leticia slowly closed her eyes, hid her face from the surroundings, and smiled.
They would regret having made enemies of her.[10]

AN: Sorry for the poor magic explanation.

Translator notes

1. 准騎士=apprentice knights (literally, quasi knights) test to graduate first year makes you this.–back
2. … ここでは復習も兼ねて実演してみたいと思います」–back
3. 「……凄い」=cool, amazing, exclamation–back
4. Even magic needs math! (BTW this was long…)–back
5. だが、生徒たちの多くは教官の説明よりも。後方に座ったレティシアの方へと意識を傾けていた。–back

6. structure?–back
7. Gah…–back
8. Gah!–back
9. 恐らく自分がレティシアの側に立つには相応しくないなどと考えてのことであろうが、彼女に言わせればそれこそとんでもない考えだ。–back
10. It begins…–back

<–Chapter 11 Chapter 13–>

Thanks to:

- Seinvolf – Quotes again
- Deus ex Machina – TLC (is that what you call it?)
-

Chapter 13

GDoc here. The chapter title says it all…

Anticipation

The man rose from the ebony desk, and slowly walked towards the window.
A month after the entrance ceremony, he finally had a moment's rest from work.
He gazed at the practice field through the window.
There, the students who aspired to become knights spent their time.
However, immediately after the entrance ceremony, of the people found in the practice field, the figure of students were missing.

It was a common spectacle in recent years.

Since the new students hadn't gotten used to the atmosphere yet, any students that did enter were extremely diligent, and so a month passed like this. [1]
The man let out a deep sigh.
It had been three years since he had returned from the front lines to the capital.
Now, the administrative position he was given was a high position in its own way, but he was completely unable to contribute to the war effort.
In essence, it was a demotion.
While on duty in a village on the front lines, the man had punished a knight who was about to rape a young girl, and was sent back to the capital as a result.
Afterwards, he learned that the rapist knight belonged to a long line of prominent nobles.[2]
The demotion was so blatant, that he felt irritated, but his head had begun to whiten. The subordinate he had trained was forced to agree to such a foolish action. [3]
However, the reality he saw here was unbelievable to he who had risked his life on the front lines.
Various injustices including factional disputes, betrayal, even bribery, and

embezzlement were rampant throughout.
The students of the Knight School who would shoulder the imperial army soon were no exception, especially the the ones who should have been model students, the noble children, were the ones who took the initiative to commit such injustices.
What was frightening, was that those very people would one day govern the entire knight order.
No,The current Knight Order's leaders were also the same.
The students were merely imitating their parents.
He wondered how his other comrades from the front lines saw the reality of the capital.
According to orders to the distant front lines from the capital, many knights and soldiers fought to the death.
He was a good battle strategist, but even he couldn't guarantee zero victims.

He had seen many lives end.
Even those who cared for the sick died. [4]

On the other hand, those who gave the orders that caused the deaths were there surrounded by their family members, living lives of luxury.

But that didn't mean that they were completely rotten.
They understood that logistics were important.

If they fulfilled their work without fail, some of their decadence would be ignorable.
However, the supplies, food and money that was to be sent to the front lines were embezzled by them, and the supplies that arrived were always insufficient, and those on the battlefront had no choice but to endure it.
Of course, before his eyes in the practice field, there were students who trained all day, intending to truly protect the empire as knights.
Those who thought that way were few, and they were of low status, and did not remain in the capital.
They were sent to the front lines.
Officially, it was the high achievers that were left in the capital, but in reality, bribery was able to determine the grades.

This was no good.
The empire had no future like this.

While the demon lord existed, it was a threat to all those living, and it was better while it existed. [5]
Throughout the whole continent, all the countries and races were united to oppose the threat.
However, now that the threat was removed, fights between people and nations came to the forefront yet again.
In fact, information was obtained stating that the neighboring country had planned to begin militarizing.
When the country would invade was unknown.
‘Humans, I believe, are truly greedy beyond help.’
‘Despite the fact that they had been companions united against a common enemy just the other day, the moment the menace of the demon lord disappeared, beings of the same race began to fight each other.’
‘That reminds me –‘
‘That girl, who became the Brave…’
‘When I heard that she would be enrolling as a scholarship student, I was surprised.’
He had seen the Brave three years ago at the frontier — he was the commander of the platoon that had moved against the ogres about to overrun a village — it became his last battle.
Though he sent a scout platoon, the platoon’s estimates of the size of the ogre horde exceeded expectations, he had resigned himself to the loss of the scout platoon and the village.
However, what they saw when they arrived was — there, countless ogre corpses lay, standing in the middle was a girl with a cold gaze.
The girl was surrounded by the gazes of the scout platoon knights and the villagers.
At the same time that he arrived, her companions arrived, and without a word, they departed.
According to the scout platoon’s report, and the villager’s words, he was able to find out that the girl was the Brave, Leticia von Mavis, and he was unable to forget that scene

The cold gaze the Brave showed.
The feelings of fear that coursed through the villagers — they were directed at she who had saved the village, the Brave.[6]

‘Unrewarded, without being given even a word of praise, solely given looks of fear, what sort of mental state could she be experiencing?’
‘By all rights, she was still at the age where she should be playing around happily.’
‘But she wasn’t allowed to do so.’
‘Feared by those she protected, despite being rejected, why did she continue to fight on?’

A knock on the door brought him out of those thoughts.

“It’s open. Please come in.”

“Yes sir! Excuse me.”

The person who entered the room was is former subordinate, with whom he had met again when he returned to the capital.
That man returned to the capital a short while before he did.

“Is the plan going well?”

“I believe things are going as you expected, sir.”

“Is that so…”

The man leaned into his chair and closed his eyes.

“Many uninvolved people will be involved in the end, huh…”

“Sir…”

Some fatigue dwelled in the words he muttered with a deep sigh.

“The plan, can we afford to reconsider it again? Now, the Brave is in the school. If she–”

“There is no time for that.”

The man interrupted his subordinate’s worried words.

“She might make a move, we do not know. She probably is not one to tolerate

injustice, and she has enough power. However!” [7]

With those strong words, the man raised his head.
At those eyes filled with vigor, his subordinate shrunk back.
Even if he had retired from active duty, they were eyes of a knight who had survived for years on the battlefield.

“I do not plan to let the Brave shoulder the burden of our Knight Order’s problems. This is our problem.”

Originally, the demon lord was also supposed to be the knight order’s problem.
Instead, the fate of the world was entrusted to a young girl.
He still felt the anger at his own worthlessness.
Furthermore, he couldn’t possibly shame himself more by troubling others.

“Sir, if you would even go this far, then there is nothing more to be said. Now, the plan is beginning to be put into motion. Lastly, we…”

“Such a stupid matter.”

He laughed off the subordinate’s proposal.

“I am the commander. Your commander. It is the commander’s responsibility to see through the plan to the end.”

At those words, the subordinate took a deep bow, and left adroitly.
The man saw him off, and in the room alone, he muttered to himself.

“Oh, Brave. You shouldn’t have returned to this country. This country is rotten. Therefore, before you turn on the country, I will act first.”

“Father.”

“Oh, Jade. How goes your matters?” [8]

“There are no problems. With the money I obtained, I can use the group as I please.”[9]

They were at the Cliffdorf House’s estate in the Imperial Capital.
The head of the household, Welt, and his son, Jade, were having a meal together.[10]
The table was filled with decadent food– food that those on the front lines would

never taste.
While enjoying the cuisine and drinking first class wine, Welt began to speak.

“Have you noticed the movements around here recently?”

“Yes. According to the spies, the plan has not changed, and they will move as planned.”

“Is that so.”

With those words, Welt nodded with satisfaction, and once more drank his wine. [11]

“I must say, Father. It is a splendid plan. Using that man’s plan, it is possible to deal a blow on the imperial household.”

“Hmm. That’s because he had just returned from the battlefield. The war in the capital is similar to the war on the front lines, it uses not only brute strength, I know.”

Welt had already been aware of the dissident faction of the Knight Order.
He had not risen to the top of the Knight Order for show.
If he exercised his influence, he would be able to promptly suppress them, but he wanted to use the plan to deal a blow against the imperial household.

“But, Is it alright? Even if we kill?”[12]

“There is no problem. The Brave has now caught my interest.”

Jade smiled faintly.

“It is surely regrettable, but they can’t compare to the Brave.”[13]

“As for that matter, is it going well with you? Can you obtain the Brave?”

“As we had said before, the Brave is merely a little girl after all.[14]
Furthermore, she is inexperienced in high society. Please leave it to me.”

Jade held up his glass, lightly tapping his father’s glass.
A faint clink was heard. [15]
Tipping his glass, Jade drank the wine while thinking about the Brave.

‘She certainly is a beautiful maiden. She is suitable to be my partner.’ [16]

‘Only she has the air of nobility.’[17]
‘That overwhelming presence.’
‘That unparalleled beauty.’
‘Although I thought that whether a wife was ugly or beautiful didn’t matter, after seeing her figure, I just had to have her.’[18]
‘I want to control that girl.’
‘Which reminds me… The Brave is especially close to that plebeian Wynn, or so I heard…’
‘Perfect.’
‘There should be that apprentice knight who is close to that plebeian.’
‘Using him, I will be able to deal with that annoying plebeian bastard.’
‘I’ll first kill all the pests before they multiply.’[19]

Translator notes

1. 入学直後の生徒達はまだここでの雰囲気に慣れていないため、どんな生徒であっても真面目に訓練を受けているが、それが一月も経過するとこのザマだ。–back
2. I stand by my harsh portrayal of the rapist knight.–back
3. 後進を育て、あのようなバカを生み出さないことも老兵の務めかと無理矢理に自分を納得させることにしたのだが。–back
4. 最後を看取ってやった者達もいる。–back
5. wrong–back
6. そして駆けつけた時に見た村人たちの恐怖の感情――その対象は、村を助けてくれたはずの勇者へと向けられていた。–back
7. I think that he means that she has enough power to make the jerks regret it, but…–back
8. wording–back
9. 「抜かりなく。金を掴ませて、班編成はこちらの思いのままにさせてもらいました」–back
10. how quaint.–back
11. 再び葡萄酒を煽る–back
12. 「だが、良いのか？　あれを殺しても？」–back
13. 「確かに惜しい気持ちもございますが、勇者に比べれば何ほどのものがあろうか

と」–back

14. whom the commenter believe is borderline yandere…–back
15. Literal sfx – chan?　ちんっという軽い音が室内に響く。–back
16. more than suitable…–back
17. ただそこにいるだけで醸し出される高貴な気配。–back
18. whenever I translate the character 姿 as figure, I feel like I am referring to body shape, when I usually don't mean it… but in this case it fits–back
19. I feel like a horrible person while translating his words. Stupid cliché nobles…–back

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<–Chapter 12 Chapter 14–>

Gah, I feel so horrible after translating Jade's scheming… Must find something to cleanse this jerk noble feeling… Iyashikei!

Random Questions

1. Any Iyashikei manga or anime recommendations? (for those who don't know, haven't seen all of it, just need one to pick…)
2. Advice form…

Thanks to:

- Seinvolf – misspelled they.
- Deus ex Machina – TLC

Chapter 14

GDoc here. ~~Unedited, at all. I will give it a second look by Thursday.~~

Periodic Subjugation Mission

The Knight School students who met the qualifications to become apprentice knights receive missions from the Knight Order.
The regular subjugation missions are one of them.
They were tasked with subjugating low level monsters such as goblins, orcs and apparitions in the mountain district's forests.
With the Demon Lord defeated by the Brave, high ranked demons and monsters gone, much of the damage was caused by the unrelated low-level monsters.
For that reason, the Knight Order undertakes a biannual subjugation mission.
The mission was perfect for the new apprentice knights to gain actual combat experience.
This year, Knight Apprentice Locke Marine was directed to participate in the mission.

"…And that's how it is. Wynn, please come with me."

"I don't know what you mean by 'And that's how it is.', but I have work, and I'm not an apprentice knight, you know? "

Returning to the room in high spirits, Locke declared to Wynn, who had returned earlier,

"With this subjugation mission[1], Doesn't it take a month? What would I do about class!?"

"At most, won't your grade drop a bit? Wouldn't real combat experience on the mission be more useful training?"

"That is true, but…"

Anyways, it was his fourth year here.
In his classes, he would be able to earn back some points on the tests.

Tossing his coat onto the bed, and picking up the sword leaning on the wall, Locke sat on the floor.
The sword in his hand wasn't the normal practice sword that Wynn used everyday, but a standard Imperial Knight's sword.
On the blade, the magic words were inscribed. It was the standard magic blade issued by the imperial knight order used against monsters.

Whether it be goblins, kobolds, or wild animals turned into demonic beasts by miasma, they multiply like humans and animals. [2]
Since the monster spawn have physical bodies, using normal weapons to attack it is enough.
However, mid to high rank demons born from the demon lord and elite demons, since they possessed a miasma nucleus in their core, couldn't be damaged by physical means.[3]
The only way to damage them is by using magic, or using magic-power reinforced weapons.
For this reason, the humanity's age-old weapons such as the bow and other wooden weapons were ineffective.[4]
Though there was Enhancement Magic, it wasn't efficient to enhance each arrow one by one, and there was also the problem of the effective time of enhancement magic.
Therefore, though there was a way to inscribe the words directly onto the blade, the blade would need a specially refined steel to allow it to conduct magic energy well.
Since there are long gaps between combat, most people prefer easy to use weapons, so the common spears couldn't hold magic words.[5]
Even though there were metal spears created, the weight, cost and other problems, prevented it from becoming popular.
Of course, powerful magic weapons existed in myths, but…

The standard imperial knight sword merely had its sharpness magically enhanced, and the magic blade's core was made of the cheapest materials, the country does not give it out unless one is at least an apprentice knight.
Locke treated his yet unused sword very carefully.
Even now, while Locke polished his sword with a loose expression, Wynn gazed

at him with an envious expression.
The sword that he was granted, after all, was the first step to achieving his aspirations of becoming a knight.

“But my magical ability is practically nonexistent, so I want to at least make up for it in martial arts class? Even then, I also want to earn my living expenses, so I can’t skip work.”

Even now, Wynn worked at the Wataridori Pavilion after class.
He was the main waiter in the peak hours of the evening, so if he were suddenly absent for a long period of time, Hanna would no doubt start to complain.
At worst, he would be fired.
Even if he weren’t fired, the the tuition was expensive.
Apart from working at the Wataridori Pavilion, Wynn would use the breaks to do odd jobs and simple requests at the adventurer’s guild, so the mission would prevent him from taking those jobs.
However…

“Ah, but isn’t it fine if you don’t worry about the money?”

Locke stopped his hand that was polishing the blade, gave a satisfied nod at the blade’s gleam, and returned it to its sheath.

“Perhaps, within a few days, I think a directive will also arrive for you?”

“Huh? Why?”

“Because, a person expected to participate in the mission was named Wynn”[6]

“Why!?”

He was sure that the Knight Order only selected knight cadets above a certain ability, and then sent the mission dispatch directive.
Even as a cadet, official missions from the Knight Order, or the Empire, they would receive a reward even if they weren’t apprentice knights.
If that were the case, then Wynn’s monetary qualms would be nonexistent, and since it would be an official directive, he would have no choice but to quit working for a while.
Nonetheless…

“Up until now, I have never went on this sort of mission.”

“Isn’t that proof that their evaluation of you has improved?”

The students that attended the Knight School were of good blood.[7]
Among children of the aristocracy and the wealthy in the school, who possessed high magic power, Wynn had low magic power, so his evaluation was similarly low.
Since there were many of those who had risen ranks from being a soldier among the knights, not all the knights had strong magic power, but Wynn’s lack of magic power was a disadvantage to him in school.

“Is that so… then that would be good…”

Apart from his abysmal practical magic grades, his performance in his other classes was better than the nobles.
He took the classes seriously, even if it weren’t his fourth year. [8]
Even in close quarters combat, he had reached the point that he could fight evenly against strengthened opponents.
Locke thought that it was strange that Wynn hadn’t become an apprentice knight.

“Well, the people who see it, see it.” [9]

“Apart from me, won’t there be other participants?”

“I have a hunch on how many people will be there. However, Wynn, this mission, depending on circumstances, is a chance to become an apprentice knight.”

His face breaking into a smile, Locke turned towards Wynn.
Even though one was a knight cadet, and the other is an apprentice knight, they were both students.
Despite the mission, there was also training, however…

“Since it is a real battle, if you achieve good results, it is a shortcut to becoming a knight!”

As Locke said, actual military accomplishments are the best achievements, after all. [10]

“I understand, but I should be careful to not be too reckless in my actions.”

The next day, the directive reached Wynn.
Just as Locke said, it was the dispatch order for the periodic subjugation mission.[11]

On the highway between Imperial Capital Simurgh and a nearby city Kurenado.[12]
Wynn, who was appointed to go on the subjugation mission, was among Locke and the other apprentice knights students, while several knights rode their horses ahead.
The platoon that was mixed among the inexperienced students were those stationed in the relatively safe surroundings of the imperial capital.
Thus, in a place far from the frontier, the knights organized small platoons to carry out the subjugation.[13]
The students that were participating numbered twenty, including Wynn.
In addition to the four knights dispatched from the Imperial Capital, six knights from the fort would make up the platoon.
With the horses in the lead, they marched forth on the highway.
As expected, unlike the nervous students, the knights maintained composed expressions.
While sometimes engaging in idle chatter, they advanced.
While staying in formation with Locke and his horse, Wynn looked ahead at the knights before him.
At the vanguard was Nigel, a knight of noble birth, and the captain of the platoon.
He seemed to be in his mid-thirties.
He had a tall and lean body, and wore a new suit of armor.
Beside him was a young knight riding alone on a horse, Jade.
For a son of high nobility to participate in this sort of mission was highly unusual.
Upon seeing his figure in the Knight School’s plaza, Locke was very surprised.

“Oioi, why is Jade-sama participating? It’s not like a dragon will appear…”

“Stop that… Don’t say something so ominous.”[14]

Why Locke blurted out those words, Wynn understood.

However, possibly because he participated, there were an unusually large amount of noble apprentice knights participating…
They were also wearing new suits of armor.
But strangely, they didn't talk to Jade, and Jade advanced all alone.
That he wasn't surrounded by his lackeys was strange.
Jade was a student, but in this mission, he was considered a knight.
'What sort of strings did he pull,' was Locke's negative assessment of him, but for the purposes of this he also held a grudging respect for him.[15]
Behind the two senior Knights, Jade merely looked ahead and rode his horse forward.

"Captain Nigel, though there are rumors of bandits appearing around here, there haven't been any attacks, have there?"

A student in front of Wynn called out.

"There are no bandits willing to risk attacking an armed group including us knights and students."

Nigel looked back, and answered the student's question.

"In the first place, the likes of bandits would aim for caravans possessing money. What would they gain from attacking an armed force?"

"Ah, that's right."

"Don't worry."

The two younger knights in their mid-twenties looked back at the anxious students, drew their swords, and held them in the air.

"Whether it be bandits or monsters, we just have to subjugate them, don't we?"

At that, they pointed the swords at the smiling students.

"Don't draw your sword recklessly, Irusu."[16]

A stern and firm voice came from the back row.
It was a person who marched without talking to anybody, in the rearguard, Aldo.
Even Instructor Aldo was part of the platoon.
The instructors were also knights.

Unlike the other three people in the rearguard, wearing a worn suit of armor covered in scratches, he distinctly stood out among the other three people.

“This isn’t a game. Face forward, and lead the way carefully.”

At Aldo’s reprimand, Irusu clicked his tongue, and sheathed his sword.

“Is that the mindset of the battlefield, Aldo?”

Nigel turned around to glare at Aldo in the back.

“Your words are important, befitting of a veteran knight-dono who has returned from the front lines. However, Irusu drew his sword to encourage you everybody. To reprimand him like that, disregards my authority and exceeds yours.”

Looking down, Aldo said no more.
Seeing this, Nigel pat Irusu’s shoulder with an unpleasant smile.
The young knight took a fleeting glance at Aldo, and smiled.

“What is it, so unpleasant…”

Riding beside Wynn, Cornelia whispered.
She was also picked for the mission as a knight cadet.
Two people, Wynn and Cornelia, were the only two knight cadet members on the mission.
Naturally she came to interact with Locke and Wynn.
Originally, she was avoided by the other students, so it was natural.

“Instructor is amazing. Since that person is a commoner, he must have done a meritorious deed on the front lines and became a knight. ” [17]

Locke whispered back to Cornelia. [18]

“But don’t bring those human relations into the conversation. It is a relief that Jade is quiet”

The discord between noble knight from the capital [19] and a commoner knight returning from the front lines was sometimes visible. Idiom? 見え隠れする。
Meanwhile, Jade merely remained silent, but since many of the other apprentice knights were also nobles, Nigel and Irusu’s position was viewed more favorably.
Upon seeing the Aldo who always yelled at them being on the other end of the

stick in the argument, many students snickered.
Being somewhat related to the recent conversation, the student who talked with Nigel and Irusu appeared among the students.
Apart from those people, Wynn and the others were in front of Aldo, who was in the back.
Aldo was silent, and hadn't said a word since then.[20]
Marching on for a half an hour in somewhat unpleasant atmosphere, they saw a rough small stone fort in front of them.
It was the fort that would become the platoon's base.

Translator notes

1. 定期巡回討伐任務=title=Periodic Patrol Subjugation Mission. Any better wording for it?–back
2. so Birth Rate>Death rate, so mission is to increase Death Rate.–back
3. Changed from unedited version.–back
4. 矢や槍 ??–back
5. wording, 槍=hilt or weapon? —back
6. So Locke has inside info that Wynn is going, it seems…–back
7. good blood, high blood, blue blood, something like that–back
8. he would have taken them seriously even in his first year, and did.–back
9. a que sera, sera type thing?–back
10. military exploits? deeds?–back
11. Not sure, plot-wise…(just my reaction) Did he get the order due to benevolence, or malevolence? both?–back
12. A less romaji name?–back
13. first part??–back
14. If it were another series, I might have just translated it to you might trigger a flag, probably not the most accurate translation, but that sort of feeling.–back
15. not exactly sure about the last part, of why he has this Lit:"slight admiration"–back
16. Another name….–back
17. Not sure about fine points「教官も大変だよな。あの人は前線で手柄を立てて騎士になった、平民出身の人だから」–back

18. he keeps on emphasizing that they are riding horses. Can't find a way to make it flow right now.–back
19. is there a nuance between imperial capital(皇宮) and capital(中央) used here?–back
20. first part…–back

<–Chapter 13 Chapter 15–>

Well, I used Harvest Moon as my Iyashikei-ish diversion, and now I'm back… In less than two weeks, I go out of country. IDK whether I can translate anything, since family will be the priority. Will be gone for a month. After that, University starts. I hope I can aim for 1 chapter a week then, but we'll see…

Thanks to:

- Deus ex Machina has volunteered to be my editor… He hasn't edited yet of course…

Chapter 15

GDoc here. I will be gone for over a month. Please read the status report on the sidebar.

Night Before (1)

The group arrived at the fort to spend a night preparing for the next day's expedition.
Instead of staying in the fort, they camped in the open space front of the fort, since the mission was also a training opportunity.
Although they had moved by horse up until now, the student's faces reflected their fatigue.
However, not one person laid down.
It was understandable.
Though they were a stone's throw away from the knights in the fort, nobody knew whether atrocious monsters lurked within the forest covered in shadows.
Of course, near the imperial capital, no powerful monsters existed, but while that was true, the fear had not faded.
Everybody understood that they had better lie down for a little rest for tomorrow's expedition, but the tension prevented their eyes from closing.

At the several campfires set up in the open space, acquaintances sat together.
The food had been provided by the fort, and the students ate to their heart's content, and passed their time as they pleased.
It was particularly noisy around several of the female apprentice knights.
In such a somber environment, to the men, they were refreshing existences.
If there are many boys seeking to be knights, regardless of family status, then there are also many girls who are aiming to become knights, of low status.
In many cases, they could be daughters of a family of knights.
The daughters would be able to interact with children of upper class nobles, with even a chance to marry into riches, so they actively socialized too.[1]

However, during military movement, they stood guard while the knights patrolled the surroundings, so there was no strange atmosphere. (TL: really unsure…)[2]

Even Cornelia was approached by a single male student, unlike usual.
It was unusual for her to be approached by a student.
Since she was even avoided by those of the same gender, Wynn, who had known her for at least a month, couldn't remember her being approached by somebody of the opposite gender.
She, Wynn and Locke were gathered around a fire, when an apprentice knight named Regin[3] suddenly approached her.

"Such amazing beauty. Your face, illuminated by the flames, looks exactly as if it had come out of a painting of the Goddess Anastasia-sama. To have met you in this place, it must be the work of god. How about it? Won't you come and talk with us over there?"

"I'm sorry."

She replied immediately.
Cornelia gazed at the campfire's flames as if entranced, and rejected Regin, who had knelt down and held his hand out in a theatrical manner, without even looking at his face.

"…Pu…ahaha…."

Locke's back curled, and his shoulders shook, but he was unable to resist bursting into laughter.

"Stop laughing!"

He didn't even consider the possibility that he would be immediately rejected.[4]
Regin, who displayed a dumbstruck expression, shouted at the laughing Locke.

"I'm sorry."

Locke stopped laughing for a moment and imitated Cornelia's tone to apologize to Regin, then, being unable to endure it, he held his sides and burst out into uncontrollable laughter again.

“Shit, for the likes plebeians…”[5]

Regin, red-faced, glared at Locke, who was laughing, then shifted his attention to Wynn, who was seated.

“Hey, you’re Wynn. right? Last year, I beat you black and blue, but you still haven’t given up?”

“Ah…”

Regin was the previous year’s top student.
During the examination, Wynn and Regin had a match, and defeated Wynn.

“Hmm, Even though it’s a waste of effort. Shouldn’t you hurry up and return to a place fitting for you?”

“What the heck are you saying. Wynn’s swordsmanship is decent, if not better, weren’t you his opponent?”

Recovering from his laughter, a red-faced, teary-eyed Locke talked back.

“Don’t say such stupid stuff. He lost because of his swordsmanship, as expected of a plebeian. There is a limit to being a sore loser.”

“Nevertheless, that is the truth.”

His smile fading, Locke spat out.

“Anyhow, it seems like the examiner was bribed with money and the sword was switched. Then, after the examination, the sword Wynn used was immediately disposed of to hide the evidence.”[6]

“Why would I do something like that?”

“Isn’t it to accommodate Jade’s wishes?”

“Stop talking.”

Amazed, Regin shook his head, and glanced at Jade, who was sitting at a place away from them.
Jade wasn’t sitting with the other students in his clique[7], but sitting alone.
During the trip, it was strange that Jade wasn’t leading his lackeys.
Did Jade’s lackeys not participate on this mission?

“My house, the House of Reinhardt[8] and the Cliffdorf house are political rivals. I don’t have a reason to accommodate that guy.”

“Guh…”

Locke was silent.

It was correct.

Regin’s House, the Reinhardt Marquis house, were political opponents of the Cliffdorf Marquis House.
Both families produced many military leaders, causing many power struggles in military circles.
Regin was also surrounded by lackeys of his own.
Especially during this mission, he had many followers participating in the mission, unlike Jade, who seemed to be alone and isolated.
Since both families had that sort of relationship, Jade van Cliffdorf wouldn’t need Regin van Reinhardt to accommodate him.
When Locke had pressed the instructor, it hinted at by the instructor, but then he was sent away.

“Even then, after the match, my eligibility as the top student didn’t change.”

This was also true.
Even among the apprentice knights, Regin’s swordsmanship was top class, even when he took the examination, his ability had already guaranteed his success.
He had no reason to cheat in order to become the top student.

“You understand? If you do, let go of unrealistic dreams, and return to where you belong.”

Unrealistic dreams.

Wynn’s eyes fell to the knight sword on his waist.
It was lent to him by the equipment department only for the duration of the mission, it was a second-hand good.
It was his dream to be officially awarded this.
Despite it being borrowed, after three years, he was able to wear it,
It was the first step towards that unrealistic dream.

“That reminds me…”

Cornelia, who had rejected Regin's invitation and then remained silent, had moved her gaze from the flame to Wynn.

"Why does Wynn-kun not give up on becoming a knight?"

Wynn was looking down at the sword at his waist, ignoring the quarrel between Regin and Locke as if it were somebody else's problem, when Cornelia's question brought him to his senses.

He recalled the time when he received that question before.

It was at the time he had reunited with Leticia.

'After attending for four years, how can you still hope to be a knight?'

He had thought that it was merely a question from a lost kouhai[9], so he had responded:

'I swore to myself that I would become a knight, without fail.'[10]

Even if it were an endlessly long path, he would surely arrive if he didn't give up.
Wynn swung his sword every day believing that.

'Furthermore, a close friend in the past is still trying her hardest alone in a distant place. Even if I don't become a knight, I want to be able to proudly say that I have worked hard..'

Due to the incident merely a month ago, Leticia felt even further away than those days, thinking on those days now.

However–

"When I was young, I had admired knights. To me, knights were, the strongest. the wisest, a blade of unbreakable determination. Protectors of the weak, and the final shield of their masters. The personifications of those ideals."

Same as before, Wynn's beliefs about knights had not changed.

Leticia was alone in a distant land working her hardest.
She, who he never thought he would meet again, beyond his wildest dreams, returned as the "Brave".

Having defeated the Demon Lord, she had accomplished that which nobody

else could do.

On the other hand, he…

Without being able to become an apprentice knight, he continued to struggle on towards his dream.

“Becoming a knight, without talent, without magic, without political power, without money. Without anything at all. Except, without giving up on dreams.”

He was merely continuing to struggle.
Because he only had this.

He averted his eyes from Cornelia, towards the embers rising from the flames. [11]
Leticia had not changed between the time when she was young and when she returned. Even now, she yearned for Wynn.
She had climbed to a place much higher than himself, while he continued to believe that he would arrive there.
The world she stood in was separated from him by an endlessly long, impregnable path, that he couldn’t imagine himself reaching there, but he still had his pride.
Leticia harbored goodwill towards him.
As a female, she had her eyes on the lone male, Wynn.
Even though he had noticed, Wynn couldn’t respond to those feelings.
His surroundings would never allow it. [12]
Even then, he could at least guarantee her position as a close friend.
Besides, until his vow to become a knight has been fulfilled, he can’t even call himself her close friend.[13]

“Even if I continue to hope, I have already failed the exam three times before. But, I believe that my determination wouldn’t lose to anybody.”

“Certainly, your determination must be number one in the empire.”

Hiding his feelings with a joking tone, Locke spoke up while patting Wynn’s shoulder with a smile.

“Hmm, an ambitious dream for a commoner.”

Regin sneered.

Among them, only Cornelia wasn't smiling, motionlessly staring at Wynn's wry smile.
Within his eyes which stared at the flame as he spoke, his eyes gleamed with determination.
She had crossed swords with him multiple times during training, and each time, she had never thought of him as a failure for being defeated over and over.

At first, she had no choice but to partner with him because they both didn't have training partners. However, upon seeing the determination in his eyes, above her own problems, she wanted to know about him.

— It became the problem [14]

Even so, Cornelia couldn't suppress the curiosity towards Wynn stirring within her.

Like Cornelia, in a different place, there was another person observing Wynn.
It was Aldo.
He was surprised to know that Wynn was participating in the mission.
His practical magic grades were considerably bad.
Not just that, the administration may have also looked down on him due to him being a commoner.
Therefore, he had judged that he would never be appointed for this mission.

"Which student are you interested in?"

At Aldo, who was observing Wynn's back, a knight from the fort called out.
Like Aldo, he had been a knight on the front lines, he was Aldo's old acquaintance.

"That is… is it Cadet Wynn? Is that guy the one Aldo is interested in?"

"It seems that knights are his ideal. Strongest, wisest, and a blade of unbreakable determination…"

Aldo closed his eyes to meditate on Wynn's words.

"A childhood dream, is it, A knight straight out of a fairy tale."

However, even he, who had that impression, didn't laugh.

It was true that that sort of knight only came from fairy tales.

Reality wasn't that nice.

However, wasn't the knight he described the knight that everybody originally aspired to be?
Though since ideals and reality differed, they had to choose.

"By all rights, he may have already become a knight long ago, that boy."

"Eh? Wasn't he a failure who had to repeat school four times?"

"That's right, though only that one part of him is well known."

He moved his eyes from Wynn, and slowly walked away.
Though they were near the fort, there was no guarantee that demonic beasts wouldn't appear.
For the plan, it was necessary for the work he was given to be performed perfectly.

"Even once, If anybody sees his swordsmanship, they would also have the same opinion as me."

"Hee, that is interesting. A prodigy that even Aldo recognizes?"

"Ah, he should have been a prodigy…"

At the dark sound of Aldo's words, the other knight also fell silent.

Though the person himself is unaware, he was the one that "Leticia the Brave" loves as her master.
How will his existence affect the plan?
If in the one in a million chance that Wynn lost his life, that person would appear, the "Existence closest to God", and they and the empire would burn to the ground.

Nevertheless, once the plan begins, there would be no turning back.

'Could his excellency contain that Brave well?'

They exchanged a cup before sending each other off with a smile. Upon recalling his superior's face, Aldo sighed.
Whether the plan succeeds or fails, he would never meet that old general again.
There is no more time for that person.
For this reason, the plan must not fail.

With bitter determination, Aldo turned his gaze towards the Imperial Capital Simurgh.

Translator notes

1. need second set of eyes to look at this and the next one.–back
2. parts…–back
3. hard g sound.–back
4. To the readership: Would you accept Regin's words as a pickup line? (assume compatible gender of proposer, and that the proposer is not a jerk noble)–back
5. something derogatory about commoners. Not exactly sure.「くそ、平民上がり風情が……」–back
6. detective deduction!–back
7. is this word usually used for female rings of friends? not sure…–back
8. Reinhatto (Change one kana and get Rainbutt, which is what I had read at first…nickname?)–back
9. for the uninitiated: senpai= senior, kouhai=junior. Notice the kouhai, senpai.–back
10. callback to Ch 6. slightly changed translation, but now Ch 6 has been changed.–back
11. pachi pachi sfx–back
12. remember kids, peer pressure is not always good!–back
13. inferiority complex?–back
14. ??? Her curiosity towards Wynn was her priority problem?–back

<–Chapter 14 –>

I will not translate over the vacation, but take a relaxing break, while polishing my Japanese again. My status widget on the sidebar has some more info. I will be in Indonesia for around a month. If you see me, say hi! Meanwhile, I will not translate anything, but polish my Japanese. Translation isn't helping me retain my grammar… I'm being spoiled by Translation Aggregator… See you all in August! Sorry that I couldn't translate the next chapter, which was "Night Before (2)"

Chapter 16

~~UNEDITED~~

GDoc Here. Skight change in footnotes, so readers can tell which ones aren't as important for understanding the text.

The night before (2)

"Well, it's not like I'm complaining, but…"

A person clad in a black hooded coat let out a frivolous voice — from his voice, he seemed to be male– while his tall figure crouched, drawing a pattern on the ground.

"Even though our plan is being put into motion, everybody is all gloomy like this. Cheer up! Be more enthusiastic! Even if it succeeds, it won't be a success because of your thoughts."

While muttering and grumbling, a faint light was emitted from his fingertip as he slowly etched the complex pattern.

"In the first place, is such a big magic formation really necessary? With this Seven-fold barrier formation using our power, what type of monster are we trying to confine?"

"A monster that destroyed your boss."

The man referred to as 'His Excellency,' answered the robed man, with a shade of sarcasm in his voice.
However, the robed man ignored the sarcasm, and snickered.[1]

"Are we trying to confine the saviour of humanity this time? Hard to help aren't you, you guys."hard to please?

"You bastards are said to be unreasonable. For us to have to ask for your help…"

"Well, we are just working according to the contract. However, the Brave…

Surely, it will be a feast, the flavour of despair.”

“Let’s shut up and finish our work quickly.”

Despite the voice of the old man, which was filled with impatience, the robed man whistled a tune as he slowly stood up.
Suddenly emerging from the darkness, he began to glide.

“Well, don’t be flustered. With rushed work, if the Brave notices, we will be finished right? The scary, scaary Brave will come running, Zunbararin![2] Well, if you want to die, then it’s okay to rush it…”

“As long as it is unnoticeable, hurry up.”

“Yeah, yeah, even demons… you use roughly.”[3]

While grumbling complaints, he sighed while looking at the working demon.
They couldn’t not rely on this bunch.

“This guy, can he really be trusted?”

One of the subordinates in the rear asked the man.
It wasn’t unreasonable.
They had always fought against the demons
For a demon, that was once a menace, to be an integral part of the plan was inevitable.
He understood his subordinate’s complicated feelings.

However…

“Don’t worry. The demon is under a contract.”

The seven-fold barrier magic formation.
It was a barrier that could even contain the magic of high-ranking demons, dragon-kind, and fairy-kin.
One of the empire’s defensive trump cards, it was a high-level barrier magic.
It took an enormous amount of time to cast, with a ritual that required many expensive catalysts, that even with the magic amplifiers installed in the six fortresses surrounding the empire, he couldn’t use it with the magicians he had on hand.
He had used his substantial fortune to gather the catalysts, and the activation of

the fort's magic amplifier was left to his subordinate.
However, even with the magic amplifier, there was still not enough magic to cast the spell.
There was no choice but to borrow the power of their mortal enemy, a demon.
All for containing the Brave. [4]

"The demon is bound by a contract. As for the compensation, it is not a problem."

"That's right. We demons are not like humans, we do not renege on promises."

The demon affirmed the man's words with a light tone.
At those words, he smiled wryly.

'How unexpected, those words from a demon.'

While following the demon's working figure, the aged man reflexively smiled bitterly.
Though the barrier couldn't cover the whole school, if they were able to focus on one part, the Brave would be able to be contained.
Her intervention in the plan would mean the very failure of the strategy.
This plan would definitely cause much bloodshed.
It would be good if she turned a blind eye, but they couldn't count on it.
However, this surely was an unforgivable act.
The aged man knew that he had earned a degree in mistakes.
Nonetheless, he had no more time.
For example, there are times where it is necessary to trick the Brave who saved the world.
After this, as a reward to his sympathizers and accomplices, his subordinates, the empire would not be abused for anybody's gains anymore.[?1]
For that, he wouldn't mind bearing the stigma of dishonor.
The plan has been polished, and all that is left is to put it into motion.
The aged man drew the sword which had accompanied him for half a lifetime near.
Now, there is no going back.

In the knight school's dormitories for high ranking nobles, there, was Leticia's dorm room.

There, where she and the other high ranked nobles live, was once where the emperor’s favorite concubines lived.
If she had to say, due to Wynn influencing her commoner mindset, she had no positive thoughts about the dorm.
If one thought about how she had stayed in many cheap inns throughout the journey, the luxuriously built dormitories made her feel restless.
Though she had wanted to change her dormitory (if she could it would be one like Wynn’s inn), and had requested it, the faculty rejected the request, and she had to stay in that dormitory.
However, being unable to calm down anyways, she decided to read books until she was sleepy.

After reading a library book on her bed, Leticia got up.[5]
For just a moment, she felt an uncomfortable feeling.
This was the Brave’s sixth sense, honed across many battlefields.
Rising from the bed, she looked out the window.
Designed to be visible from the former imperial concubine’s building, was the knight school’s courtyard, formerly a flower garden filled with seasonal flowers in bloom all year-round.
When it was a palace, it was constantly lit by lamps, but now that it became an educational facility, among other things, the courtyard was covered in darkness in the night. but even with her extraordinary senses, she was unable to see the source of her unease in the darkness.

‘Is it my imagination?’

She continued looking, but couldn’t sense anything in particular.
She stopped feeling the unease she felt a moment ago.

Her gaze moved from the courtyard to the silhouette of the distant mountains.
Where that gaze fell, in those mountains, Wynn was probably there.

It was the periodic patrol subjugation mission.

Though low class, they would be fighting actual demonic beasts.[?2]
Leticia was worried about Wynn fighting against monsters.
Low-level monsters such as goblins in the beginning, and beasts corrupted by miasma and turned into demonic beasts, one would be able to defeat them

alone.
When they were young, while the two of them worked together to fulfill the herb gathering requests from the adventurer guild, they had experience fighting the monsters several times.
Leticia had used a short-sword that she borrowed from her house.
Since they were still young, she had wielded it like a longsword.

Now that she thought about it, when she had carried the short-sword, her Onii-chan was surprised.

A smile leaked out as she recalled those times.
It was the old, ordinary times, when they ran around the town.
One day, in that same place, Leticia had noticed that Wynn's running speed had slowed down.

They were in front of a run-down store.

Since it was early in the morning, every time they passed by, it was closed, so what kind of shop it was, Leticia didn't know, but that day, accompanying Wynn on an errand from Hanna, she finally found out what it sold.

It was a weapons store.

Though he was on an errand, Wynn had slowly, unsteadily, as if he was being pulled in, stepped towards the blades lined up in the weapon shop, gazing at them.
Leticia got bored, and urged him, "Come on, let's go," but he was so absorbed that he didn't answer.
The old man running the store, possibly because he recognized Wynn, merely gave them a fleeting glance.
The fact that he had selfishly passed through here, the young Leticia understood it well.
Rather than Wynn, the old man was interested in the well-dressed girl beside him, who stood out like a sore thumb.
After observing Leticia for a while, she soon started nodding off.
Meanwhile, Wynn was staring at the swords, motionlessly.

In his gaze, was a shabbily built short-sword.

Among the swords sold in the store, it was the cheapest one.

It wasn't a magic sword made for fighting monsters, just a regular, ordinary, short-sword.
Even so, with the wages Wynn earned, no matter how hard he tried, he didn't have enough money.

In the end, the detour caused him to return late, and Wynn was scolded by Hanna.[6]
Leticia didn't see that incident, and immediately returned from Wataridori Pavilion to her mansion.
Routinely treated like air, she was surprised after having returned so vigorously.
Ignoring the wide-eyed servants, she had leapt into her room, and rummaged through her storage box.
After overturning several boxes, she finally found the item she sought.

Made with small ornaments, like a work of art, it was a short-sword.

Having grown old enough, her father, Duke Mavis, had given it to her.

Holding it to her chest, she had once again ran out of the mansion
The people at the mansion didn't stop her.
The had already treated her as an outcast, being the eccentric princess of the ducal house.
Though she more or less was allowed to live like a princess, if she were kidnapped for ransom, it had been decided that they would ignore it.

She truly was treated like air. [7]

To them, the short-sword was unique, given to her by her father, but to her, giving it to Wynn was not a problem.
Rather, if he were delighted when she showed him it, Leticia would be glad to give it to him.
While running back towards Wataridori Pavilion at full speed, the young girl's thoughts were filled with Wynn's figure, happily wielding the the short-sword.

'In the end, he never took it, until I had to leave.'

She had held the short-sword out to a speechless Wynn with a smiling face.
It was clear that, compared to the short-sword in the store — no, all the weapons there, it was much more expensive, upon looking at the short-sword

for a while. However, Wynn couldn't accept it, and returned it to Leticia. Leticia, who had thought that he would surely accept it, asked "Why?" And though she had held it back out for him, he stubbornly refused.

After a short argument, Leticia ran out of patience, and they decided to compromise, borrowing the sword while out doing herb collection requests.

In the end, in her final attempt to give him the short-sword, right before she left on her journey as the Brave, Leticia had used reinforcement magic on her sword with all her strength, and defeated Wynn for the first time ever.

Pulling back her wooden sword from Wynn's throat, she unwrapped the sash around her waist, and silently held out the short-sword.
He simply let out a slow sigh, and accepted the sword.
That time, he didn't refuse.
Mumbling one word, "Thanks," he accepted the sword.
With only that, Leticia's small chest was filled with happiness.
Though she was to be separated a long distance from him, the only feelings she could remember from that time was one with an infinite power, boiling within her.

The me of that time, I can still remember it even now.

The euphoria of that time.

From then on, she most likely had already fallen in love.
She had shifted her focus to the ridges of the distant mountains.
There, in that place, was the same, unchanged Wynn who persevered in his dream of becoming a knight.

'Do your best.'

She whispered in her mind.
He decided to aim for his dreams, without turning back.
Watching his back since they were small, Leticia would give small words of encouragement.
If she raised her eyes to the sky, she would see a starry sky filled with stars.
It was time to go to sleep.
During special training tomorrow, all the students were instructed to gather outside.

Though she is the Brave, Leticia is still a student.
Furthermore, she was still expected to attend the lecture
She looked at the mountains once more, then wistfully crawls into bed.

'If I see a dream of that time, it would be good.'

She closed her eyes with those thoughts.

Translator notes

1. sfx in the sentence needs work–back
2. Magic spell?–back
3. speaker is a demon–back
4. Why do I think it won't work?–back
5. I have slightly modified the sentence structure…–back
6. scolded, in this case used "kaminari ga ochiru", lightning has fallen.–back
7. I hold your air ransom! what will you do now? breathe?–back

Translator needs help

1. wrong…???–back
2. check consistency–back
3. reword, keep infinite–back

Well, I'm back with a new chapter, but Uni starts today for me, so we will see how my schedule works out. I will be back to edit this later. Please notify me of any typos/errors.

Thanks for reading, and good night.

Chapter 17

GDoc here. Now that I am settled in (more or less) I should be able to maintain 1 chap/week on most weeks.

Overture(Part 1)

At the break of dawn, the students were split into four groups, as instructed by the knights.
The knights from the fort joined, so that there were four knights and five students in each group.

Wynn was out in the fourth group, while Locke was in the third, and Cornelia was in the second.

“What! All three of us are in different groups?”

“It can’t be helped. Since it seems that the division of groups was decided by our grades.”

Locke, who had seen the rosters of the groups, grumbled.
Wynn and Cornelia, though, were not even apprentice knights, but merely cadets.
It was natural for the groups to be divided.

The students gathered at their respective gathering place, while the knights in charge discussed their preparations.
When they finished, they joined their respective groups, then the groups would depart the fort towards the forest.

“Did you sleep well last night?”

Cornelia, who came from the second group’s rendezvous point, called out to Wynn, who was waiting for their departure.

“Yes, I did. Since I am used to hard floors, there weren’t any problems. How about you, Cornelia-san?”

“I have the special skill of being able to sleep anywhere.”[1]

“I’m so jealous of you…”

Many of the other students, on the other hand, were unable to get a wink of sleep the whole night, and had haggard expressions on their faces.
Most of those students were the nobles and rich people, who were used to

laying in soft beds, and so were unable to sleep well.
There was also the fact that they were nervous, but sleep deprivation starting on the first day would become part of the challenge of the mission.
Though virtually all of the students in Wynn's group were in a similar state, for Wynn, it was somebody else's problem. he was concerned about not holding the group back.

Either way, they would have to face monsters and demonic beasts.
For those beasts, the situation here had nothing to do with them. [2]
This was an aspect which practice didn't have; They would risk their lives on this mission.

"Everybody on Wynn-kun's side is in a similar situation…"

Seeing one of Wynn's group-mates yawn, Cornelia murmured in an amazed tone.

"Even though they will soon be knights, they still feel like nobles… Due to their lack of a sense of danger, it would be good if we didn't pay a high price for it.

"Cornelia-san said a lot."[?1?]

"I also have a lot going on… [?2?] If it's you, Wynn-kun, you should be fine. Let's both do our best!"

After waving her hand while smiling, Cornelia turned back to her group.
The second group's knights had returned and given the assembly signal.

"Hey, there was a good atmosphere going wasn't there?"

After seeing Cornelia off, this time, it was Locke who showed up.

"What are you talking about?"

"Don't play dumb. It's about Cornelia-san."

Locke patted Wynn's shoulder while smirking.

"I heard the story about your practice match together, but I didn't think it was to the point that you could talk with each other so easily."

"… Is that so? Isn't it normal?"

"If Leticia-sama saw this, what would she say, I wonder?"

"… …"

Wynn glared at Locke, who was snickering irresponsibly.

"I was just kidding. Well, if it's you, you'll be fine. Just don't try to recklessly gain achievements."

"Ah, of course."

Locke's face turned serious at those last words, then while waving his hands, he returned to his group.

'He didn't have to say that.'

Certainly, if he did well, it was a good chance to get a recommendation to become an apprentice knight.
But he had to be careful.
Picking up his bag stuffed with provisions and camping equipment, Wynn fired himself up.
The four knights in charge of Wynn's group were walking.

"We've kept you all waiting. Let's go."

At those words, they marched towards the forest together.
This was the subjugation mission's overture. [3]

Together with the four knights, the fourth group finished their final check on their equipment, and then left the highway and walked towards the forest.
As they made their way through the narrow animal trails, the overgrown tree leaves blocked the sunlight, making it appear gloomy.
At first, they had set off in a good mood, chatting with each other, but slowly, the lively atmosphere was overwhelmed, and it fell silent.
As they marched towards the designated campsite, they carefully searched for the enemy.
As soon as a monster appears, they would subjugate it. And in the unlikely case that there were none, they would return to the fort and meeting up with the other groups.
Unlike the highways and the school's practice grounds, the path was muddy, and low-hanging tree branches, and animals blocked the way, and the path was steep and uneven, which wore on the students' mental and physical strength.

Of the knights in charge of the fourth group, one was transferred from the capital, while three of them were from the fort.
The forty knights from the capital served under the squad captain, and the other thirty knights from the fort followed the vice-captain. [?3?]
In the front line, led by the squad captain and senior knights from the fort, while the students were being lined up, the vice-captain and another person were walking in the very rear.

The vice-captain observed the situation from the very back, while paying attention to his surroundings.
Four hours after they began marching, the nobles who never practiced diligently were already struggling to merely walk due to fatigue.
'It seems that they were unable to sleep well last night.'
From the start of the expedition, the mental strain from being vigilant towards the surroundings had exhausted their stamina.
All of the students were gradually hanging their heads and looking at their feet.
However, the reason that the vice-captain made a bitter face was the squad captain in the front.
It can't be helped that the students were inattentive due to fatigue.
They were still inexperienced apprentice knights, who would gain experience alongside the full-fledged knights. They should be forgiven for that much.

On the other hand, the full-fledged knights, even the captain, were making sluggish steps for some reason.

He had already entrusted the vanguard to his subordinates, so he marched on in silence.
Even though at the beginning, the students had asked self-important questions.

While thinking bitter thoughts, he observed the surroundings from the back.
Then, to the left of the group, was a thicket.
In it, an unnatural shadow was visible.
The students were not paying attention, but even the knights haven't noticed.
The shadow aimed for one of the students, slowly creeping closer, and when it was around five to six meters away, it immediately accelerated!

"…Eh?"

At last, the student who was targeted finally noticed the shadow.
An exhausted sound leaked out, and the shadow leapt out as he watched —

— Shit, there's no time!

As soon as he saw the shadow, he had already began to move towards it, but the students in front of him blocked his path.

While the other knights and students haven't moved–
The vice-captain's eyes saw a silver light be absorbed by the shadow —

With a loud shriek, the shadow jumped aside, writhing in pain.

With a hair raising scream, the black shadow tumbled to the ground while thrashing about, knocking two students away.

After rolling once, then twice … it got up, raising its voice into a howl.

At first glance, it seemed to be a rat.
However, it was the size of a wolf, and its head was covered in reptilian scales, a grotesque rat-like figure.

— Monster.

"Uwaah…" "Uwaaaaah!?"

Advancing from a thicket in the middle of a treacherous terrain, and a dark, dense forest, while the students' stamina and spirits were exhausted, was a dreaded encounter with monsters.

The students fell into a panic — "Stop panicking!"

The vice-captain thundered a command.

"Hold up your shields, draw your swords! Is this how you aim to become the Empire's knights?"

As if struck by lightning, the galvanized[4] students raised their shields and drew their swords.

'Yes, though they are agitated, it should be fine.'
They had somehow passed the knight examination.
Once they prepared their stances, they outnumbered it.
'First off, we won't lose.'

The vice-captain didn't attack again, and observed the situation as the students encircled the monster.
His eyes were caught by a youth standing in front of the demonic beasts.

'That student is the cadet that Aldo paid attention to.'

The silver flash from before was him throwing the short sword, cutting through the air.

The short sword deeply embedded into the rat-like monster's right eye.
If it weren't for that attack, the recently targeted student would have had his throat torn to shreds.
While letting out an angry growl, the monster gnashed its fangs menacingly.
However, being completely surrounded on all sides, though agile, the demonic beast had no chance.
Though they had somewhat backed away, the students' swords wounded the demonic beast's skin.

"So that's the cadet called Wynn."[?4?]

Suddenly, one of his subordinates was standing next to him.

"Ah. It's merely that Aldo-san has his eyes on him."

Up until now, the students had a solid advantage.
The student directing the battle, the cadet named Wynn, went around the front of the surrounded monster, to the blind spot created by the short-sword, supporting the other students' attacks.
Wynn stood in front of the demonic beast, while two people moved to the left and right behind it.
The two people standing in the back specialized in attack magic began to chant magic.

Rather than specialize in fighting against humans, his style specialized in fighting monsters.
Stabbing at an opponent's weak points, it was an adventurer's fighting style.

According to Wynn's instructions, they repaired the formation.
Despite being an ostracized commoner, they had arrived at this situation due to his directions.

It was to the point that the nobles were able to recognize his judgment.

“That lad, he still has energy to spare in this fight.”

“… It’s regrettable, isn’t it?”

The fact that he was devoted to distracting the monster, while also paying attention to the surroundings, speaks volumes of his experience fighting monsters.
At that age, he might be imitating an adventurer.

“Soon, it will be a good time for our plan. What should we do?”

The vice-captain looked up at the sky.
At the beginning of the plan, the students needed to be occupied for the plan to work.
Therefore, encountering a monster from the beginning was helpful.
However, looking at the battle, it would be good to cast away that plan.
Especially that Cadet Wynn — no — beyond the weapon in his hands, there were many uncertain factors. [?5?]
Though the thick branches and leaves blocked the sunlight, the sun was slowly reaching its zenith.[5]

“How far is the fort, and how far are the other groups?”

“It is as planned.”

Nodding at the subordinate’s report, he would wait and see what the captain did.
As if grading them, he stood behind the students and watched the course of the students’ battle.

The battle was headed towards the end.
The two students finished their chants, and the monster was covered in flames.
Letting out a soft whine, the monster fell to the ground, then the two students stabbed at it with their swords.
The demonic beast’s death cries resounded.

“If we’re doing it, we must do it now.”

Matching the vice commander, his two subordinates also slowly drew their

swords.
Displaying his resolution at the beginning was his role as their superior.
He softly crept behind the squad captain, who was proudly looking at the students' battles…

"Ah… Gah…"

In one motion, the vice-captain's sword pierced the captain's back, and exited his chest, and fresh blood spurted out.

Translator notes

1. Untranslated portion (verbal tic?)- "nanodesu"–back
2. ready or not, they will attack.–back
3. same kanji here as chapter title. The kanji means both beginning, of a festival or era, and according to the dictionary, "rise of the curtain" Hence, overture. Slight poetic license.–back
4. your SAT English vocab word of the day! Use context clues if you don't know what it means!–back
5. meaning that it's almost noon, i think–back

Translator needs help

1. dbl check–back
2. not sure what happened in these 2 lines–back
3. need to double check–back
4. yarimasu=??–back
5. dbl check–back

Well, cliffhanger! I am still getting used to life in college (Hook'em!), and will eventually get into enough of a rhythm to aim for one chapter a week. Chapter 16 is now edited. Please do note that I have a status bar to the left side (on browsers, maybe to the bottom for mobile?), which will show my current progress, and if I have a hiatus of some sort. I am planning on compiling an epub of the whole volume (chapters 1-22) myself, as I go back and re-translate certain

parts, and edit it to make it nicer. (Maybe during my thanksgiving break?) This overture mini-arc has three parts, then two chapters plus an epilogue chapter. I am not sure why the volume 2 prologue is listed under volume 1. Almost done with a whole volume/arc!

See you next chapter, which will hopefully come out in a week!

Chapter 18

GDoc here. Important clarification: each of the four groups on the expedition has four knight going with five students. Ch.17 has been fixed accordingly. Enjoy!

Overture (Part 2)

AN: Gore warning <TN: Liberal translation of AN, my reserved right!>
Viewer discretion advised. <TN: It's not that bad… violent media has let us see worse (common example used=Call Of Duty)>

The fourth group and the knights that joined them advanced along the steep and uneven trail. [1]
On the other side of the forest, was the mountain.
The trail gradually became steeper, and their stamina would be exhausted more quickly.
Up until now, they had not encountered a single monster.
However, this was land that humans don't set foot on.
Encountering a monster, or finding a low-level demon nest wouldn't be strange.

When they took a short break, they had been marching for around five hours.
Wynn felt that the sun should reach its peak soon.
The students gradually became silent, as the footing became worse, and they grew fatigued, to the point that they were now looking at their feet in order to gain footing.
Wynn walked at the end of the line of students.

Since the other students were all nobles, Wynn was treated like air, but since he had strength to spare, he observed the full-fledged knights walking at the very back.
The knight acting as a guide at the front, and the two knights at the back were walking with unstrained expressions.
As one would expect, that was the point in which the students differed from them.
They were knights who were from the fort.
To Wynn, it was meaningful, since he was so close to his ideal, the knights.
With robust bodies and tenacious wills, no matter the difficulty, they travelled all over.
On the other hand, the knight serving as captain, who came from the capital, like the other students, seemed to be concealing his exhaustion.

His gait had become unsteady.

Rather, the students' gaits were not as bad.[2]
The students, who still trained, had better stamina.
The knights assigned to the capital should have been the best of the best, but—.
Wynn felt like he had seen the reality again. [3]

Their exhaustion had taken away their ability to concentrate and think, causing them to disregard any caution for their surroundings.
Due to this, Wynn was the only student who had the presence of mind to notice the shadow.

From the thicket, the shadow soundlessly and rapidly approached —
As soon as he noticed it, Wynn drew the short-sword at his waist and extended his left hand—

"… Eh?"

The jaw lined with sinisterly sharp fangs approached a student walking towards the capital, and—

It let out a hair-raising howl.
As if it were flicked away, the shadow jumped aside, rolled on the ground, and then unsteadily picked itself up.

It was the size of a wolf, and reptilian scales covered its head.
Its sharp fangs could easily tear off a man's flesh.
Due to the pain from the short-sword impaled in its eye, the demonic beast let out a howl while grinding its fangs.

Wynn drew the knight sword,[4] and then circled around the front of the demonic beast.
He held out the sword in order to draw the demonic beast's attention towards himself.
Since the other students had not yet recovered from the shock of the demonic beast's sudden assault,Wynn was acting as a decoy in order to draw attention and let the victim[5] escape.
The demonic beast, had decided to target the human who had crushed its right eye.

It took a low stance as if waiting for an opportunity, while eyeing the distance between them.
Likewise, Wynn also continued to wait for an opening in the demonic beast's defense.

At that time —

"Calm down!"

The vice-captain's roar resounded.

"Hold up your shields, raise your swords! Is this how you aim to become the Empire's knights?"

The panicked students held up their shields and drew their swords, as they realized what was happening.
On the other hand, the vice captain's roar became a chance for Wynn and the monster to break the standoff.
Kicking the ground with its thick legs, the demonic beast leapt towards Wynn.

"Ooooooooooooo!"

Wynn raised a battle cry and met the assault.

As magic power flowed into the knight sword, the magic symbols carved into the blade gave off a pale blue glow.
With a step, he dodged the leaping monster's extremely quick charge.
Immediately after sidestepping, he looked at the demonic beast's back exposed by the charge, and used the opening to slash at it.
However, the slash was evaded, using the demonic beast's advantage of having four legs to kick the ground again.
Letting out a growl, the demonic beast turned to face Wynn.

"I will draw its attention. Two people should go around back, while two people should cover us using magic!"

Without looking away from the demonic beast, he gave instructions to the other students.

Though he was worried about whether or not those nobles would accept instructions from a commoner like him, in this situation, no complaints were

made.
Obediently following his instructions, they held up their shields in front of them, and put pressure on the demonic beast.
Using the blind spot created by the short-sword impaled into the right eye, Wynn moved to his left while provoking the demonic beast with his sword.
While all its attention was focused on Wynn, other students attacked it from the back.

With these circumstances, the outcome of the battle was decided.

While thinking that, Wynn continued to distract the demonic beast while searching for another enemy in the surroundings.
Due to to the smell of the blood spilt from the demonic beast, there was no guarantee that another monster wouldn't draw near.
The knights should be paying attention to the surroundings, but it was dangerous to merely rely on that.
Even in the midst of a battle, he had not lost his cool.

Thanks to that —

He was able to sense the killing intent behind him.
Taking his eyes off of the demonic beast, he looked behind him.

A blade was sticking out of the fourth group's captain.

He was coughing out blood from his half-open mouth, and blood pooled at his feet.
The one holding the blade was the knight acting as the vice-captain.
His eyes were trained on Wynn.
Those eyes were filled with a distinct killing intent.
Wynn immediately jumped at the demonic beast's corpse, and pulled out his short-sword with his right hand and took a stance.

"Pay attention!"

"What!?"

At Wynn's sharp warning, the students who were admiring their first defeated monster looked up.
Before their eyes, the man who was the captain fell wordlessly into the pool of

blood.

“Ca-captain?”

“Huh? What? What’s happening?”

Unable to keep up with the sudden change in circumstances, the students let out confused voices.
The knights did not fail to use that opportunity—
The two students in the back who had used their magic were suddenly cut down by one person.
Towards the other two people, yet another knight drew near.

“U, Uwah!”

They panicked.
The approaching knight drew the shield in his left hand back, and feinted[6].
The student took the bait, and, unable to hide his agitation made a large swing, and his body also followed— and the knight’s sword cut into his undefended body.

“Ah, aah, AAAAAAAH!”

Upon seeing the the student dying as blood sprayed out,The last person threw his sword away, and turned to run away.

“What a fool.”

In his panic, he fell down, and the pursuing knight stabbed him in the heart from the back—
With lightning speed. [7]
In the blink of an eye, Wynn was alone.
While slowly backing away, he continued to search for a chance to run away.
He observed the terrain of the trail that he had walked on some moments ago.
He processed the various pieces of information in his head.

“As expected, you are dangerous, Cadet Wynn.”

The vice-captain, holding his blood-soaked sword and his shield, slowly drew closer.
Wynn’s eyes showed that he had not given up.

On the contrary, he still showed his strong intentions to overcome these circumstances.

“Were you imitating the adventurer’s form? You have excellent combat experience.”

“I was merely working desperately in order to eat, that’s all!”

As he said those words, he immediately turned around and ran at full speed.

‘He’s fast!’

The full-fledged knights reflexively stood staring.
The way he ran was fundamentally different from the other student who fled. Within the forest with poor terrain, he ran faster than even a full-fledged knight could run with body reinforcement.[8]
Wynn, who couldn’t use body reinforcement magic, wore light armor like the others in his group, but even taking that into account, his movements had become familiar with the distinct environment of the forest.

‘It can’t be helped.’

Deciding not to pursue him, the vice-captain ran while chanting offensive magic.

“I, who has understood the way of fire, Fireball!”

The magical flame flew towards the sprinting Wynn’s back.
Feeling the heat, Wynn looked over his shoulder and—

Then, an explosion sounded in the forest.

Translator notes

1. Recap from Wynn’s POV–back
2. fail…–back
3. as opposed to idealism.–back
4. maybe the knights get a short-sword and a longer knight sword? not sure how weapons work… Knight sword is cumbersome to type…–back
5. the targeted student–back
6. luring in an attack–back

7. Describing the stab–back
8. You train (with) a cheat, and you become a cheat yourself.–back

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The next few chapters are cliffhangers, it seems. I am sure that Ch 19 is, and Ch 20 seems to be a cliffhanger with the MC reappearing (trying to read Japanese without my usual dictionary, quickly, and relying on my Chinese skills to read kanji gives a really vague idea of what's going on)… End of chapter 21 should be the end of the action, since Ch22 is an epilogue.

I will from now on aim to release the chapter around late Friday or early Saturday (timezone GMT-6).

Return of the random questions!

- Would anybody really like it if I put the footnote as also part of the alt text when you hover/tap and hold the "[1]"? If you do, say so, and it's only one line of code to change (If I can find the line in my messy coding…)
- Does anybody know if Java would have any problems reading a .rtf file with a simple Scanner.nextLine()? .rtf is made by Microsoft, i think… If there are any problems, then please suggest an alternative for a file format that can store unicode chars, and can be read by Java. (My program is still being built, so I haven't written enough code to test it out, and I'm lazy. I'll check stackOverflow tomorrow morning…)

Please tell me if I made any mistakes, and thanks for reading!

P.S.: I feel compelled to make a preachy-ish PSA: Erase the R-word.

Chapter 19

GDoc Here. Another cliff(dorf?). Be warned.

Overture (Part 3)

At the time the explosion sounded in the forest.

“Hey hey hey… what kind of joke is this!?”

Towards the man standing before his eyes, Jade, Regin let out a flustered voice.[1]
Cornelia was also still bewildered by the turn of events.
While marching in the forest, many arrows were aimed at the knights both in the front and the back of the line. Taken by surprise, they were fell, covered in arrows.[2]
Unable to cope with the suddenness, in front of their dumbfounded selves, soldiers armed with bows and spears, and armoured knights appeared from between the trees..
Among those knights, they saw some familiar faces.
They were the knights leading the first group, which should have marched along a different route from the second group.
However, the only student was Jade.
She wasn’t sure how many of them there were, due to the trees blocking her view, but there were definitely more knights than those who had set off from the fort.
Of course, at the time the soldiers set off, there was no campaign.
They were armed with bows and spears.
They were clearly equipment meant for fighting humans.

“What are you planning, Jade van Cliffdorf? Are you starting a rebellion?”

“Rebellion, is it?…”[3]

Jade let out a scornful laugh at Regin’s question.

“The ones starting a coup d’état, are the dead insects there. Have you not received the news from the Reinhardt house?”

“What!?”

“Thanks to them, it was simple to proceed. I thank the fools who organized the

coup d’état.”

“What do you mean?”

“It seems that I can push the blame all onto them.”[?1?]

Jade slowly raised his sword, and the surrounding soldiers led by Jade raised their spears.
Killing intent surged.
It was clear that they intended to kill Regin and the others.

“Instead of the colleagues of those who caused the coup d’état, I will get rid of you.”

Regin’s gaze quickly moved through his surroundings.
‘The students in the second group are still stunned by the sudden turn of events and the killing intent. They probably won’t be helpful.’
‘While they are my lackeys, it can’t be helped that they’re helpless in this situation.’
‘In the first place, even if they could fight, they wouldn’t be able to overcome the difference in power.’
‘I cannot see the whole group, so I cannot grasp the strength of the force Jade led, but there are at least one hundred people.’

They were outnumbered by at least twenty times.

‘As for running, there was only one way to escape.—’

Regin focused on Jade.
There was a distance of approximately ten steps between them.
‘If he somehow managed to take Jade hostage, then he could flee from this place.’
‘However, what should I do after I escape this place?’

His gaze fell on the bodies of the knights.

‘They were knights assigned to the fort.’
‘If Jade’s words are true, the fort is most likely occupied by insurgents.’
‘Returning to the capital through the forest and reporting the information to the Knight Order’s top brass sounds like a good idea.’
Fortunately, the Reinhardt Marquis House had a large voice in the Knight Order.

‘An appropriate countermeasure would be taken.’

‘Besides—’

Regin’s gaze moved to Cornelia, who was standing near him.
‘Despite being exposed to life-threatening danger, it must take a strong will to not scream or cry.’
Unlike Regin’s followers, who had let out quivering voices, she had not even let out a gulp.

Regin once again looked at Jade.

‘Though this is a pinch, it is also a chance.’
‘If I can to move freely from here, I will have achieved a tremendous feat.’
‘Far from a full-fledged knight, I might even become one of the knight order’s top brass.’

‘Rather, even the path to becoming an emperor is…’

Regin thought out his plan.

“It can’t be helped. I wouldn’t win if I tried to fight. I surrender.”

“That was easier than I thought… even if you surrender, I will make use of you, but…”[?2?]

“I am the eldest son of the Reinhardt house. If we join forces, can you imagine the things we could do?”

He walked towards Jade with both hands in the air.
‘One step, two steps, three steps… If I could just get a little bit closer…’

Regin was confident in his hand to hand combat skills.
He didn’t become the previous year’s head of the class by chance.
In reality, he could boast of strength equal to or surpassing a knight order captain.

‘If I can hold Jade hostage until I reach the capital, then report the circumstances, I will become an instant hero.’[4]

While gloating in his heart, he advanced. Four steps, five steps… [5]

‘Then, I will jump at this guy…’

‘All the people of the capital will hear of my name.’[6]
‘Then beside me, Cornelia will be dressed up beautifully—’

Imagining his future bliss, his sixth step was the end.

An arrow sunk into his forehead—
Piercing through his skull, the arrow head stuck out the back of his head.
Regin fell backwards, wide-eyed.

It was instant death.[7]

The students didn’t let out a sound.
They only stared at the scene, their legs soundlessly quivered.

“How splendid!”

Holding a bow, a middle-aged knight beside Jade stepped forward and called out to Jade.
The knight pounded his chest, saluting Jade.

“I am very sorry. For Jade-sama to have to act as the decoy.”

“I was prepared. I had faith in your skill.”

“Such words are too generous. However, now that I think about it, in the unlikely event that i missed, the results would not have been good.”

“You are forgetting who you are talking to, even if I somehow became a hostage, I would make a plan to escape. Besides, being captured might be entertaining.”

“That is honestly the reason we were troubled. I humbly beg for forgiveness.”

Grimacing, the frank old knight flashed a good-humoured smile at Jade.

“That being said, what was that explosion sound just now?”

“Judging by the compass, that was in the direction of the fourth group.”

“Tch…”

At that news, Jade clicked his tongue.
‘It seems those fools who started the coup d’état moved first.’
‘The fourth group is the one with the eyesore of a plebeian.’

‘I thought that I could use that plebeian who is close to the Brave to obtain her, but…’

When he received information about the plan, Jade immediately removed his underlings from the list of those participating.
Furthermore, he gradually increased the amount of people at the fortress who served the Cliffdorf Marquis House.
Jade personally made it so that those knights were assigned to the first group with him.
Then, Jade arranged for those who were the Cliffdorf house’s rivals to participate on the mission, so he could deal with them.
Using this chance, after massacring them, all the blame would be placed on the nincompoops who planned the coup.

For nobles, losing the heir is a large blow to their standing.
It often leads to the extinction of the lineage.
Naturally, other than the eldest son, there were the second and third sons, but it would still deal a lot of damage to the House.
This would greatly benefit to the Cliffdorf house.
He was now unable to disregard the commoner to whom the Brave was close. [? 3?]
Somebody reached Jade’s side, and tried to curry favor.

“Fumu, so things aren’t going completely as planned…” (Jade)

“It is good that we have taken care of the Reinhardt here.”

At his subordinate’s words, he nodded calmly.
Regin van Reinhardt was the eldest son of the Marquis Reinhardt’s house.
Since Jade was the eldest son of the Cliffdorf house, and he was also in the same year as Regin, they frequently competed with each other.
Certainly, he was a rival for the position of next generation’s Knight Order Captain, but Jade wouldn’t be troubled by his absence.
Though he was unable to obtain the Brave as his own, he still lusted for this desire.
‘If that’s the case, let us modify the beginning of the plan.’

Jade moved his attention to the students, who stood still, shivering in fear.

‘You wouldn’t believe that these unsightly people are nobles. I should also get rid of them.’
‘Either way, the blame will be placed on those guys.’
‘I’ll just take out the trash ahead of time.’

“What of Father and the rest?”

“They have already left the capital, and are headed towards our territory.”

“Alright then. Let us proceed with our plan!”

“”Yes sir!!””

At Jade’s order, raising their weapons into the sky, the hundred knights before him chanted.[?4?]
Then, they promptly moved to exterminate the isolated people there.

“Help us!”

“P-please don’t kill us….”

Pretending not to see the extermination of the students by his subordinates, Jade slowly walked towards Cornelia.
Motionless, she merely stared straight at Jade.

“Well then, if you don’t resist, we will not harm you. You will serve as our figurehead.”[?5?]

Originally, he would have that girl’s death blamed on the insurrectionists, but the situation changed.
After Jade’s subordinates finished massacring the students, they gathered behind him, their leader.
Pompously, Jade slowly knelt down on one knee and bowed down towards Cornelia.

“If by chance you would like to join us, we of the Cliffdorf house will receive you in our territory. It is negotiable. Would you like to come with us? Your Highness.?

Cornelia Raul Lute Remulshil. [8]
Being the first princess of the empire, she was second in line to the throne. While superficially paying respects to her, Jade smiled coldly.

Translator notes

1. so Regin is the student who is jade's rival, and Nigel is the knight, who might be dead… I get them mixed up…–back
2. like a hedgehog!–back
3. 反逆: the same kanji as madoka movie 3!–back
4. Trivia (which comes from the same root as the word "trivial"): hero used here is Eiyuu. Yuusha, also commonly translated as hero, in this series is translated as Brave, due to precedent (Guro)–back
5. slight artistic license in structure… I like countdowns (in this case, count-ups…)–back
6. Don't count your chickens before they hatch. Death flags will appear.–back
7. R.I.P. i guess…–back
8. katakana for the curious, and for future reference to Ch 20: コーネリア・ラウ・ルート・レムルシル。–back

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Translator needs help

1. dbl check–back
2. ikashite…生かしておくとでも–back
3. Still not making complete sense…–back
4. diction? more military, less mystic of a connotation–back
5. 貴女には我々の旗頭となっていただく–back

Jade's diabolical plans, as revealed in Chap 20 is really demotivating (which means I have a lot of translator snark in it…). Luckily, I got through that quarter of the chapter already, so I just have to cover Locke and Leticia's POV. Wynn will reappear by the end of the chapter, it seems (not sure, just skimming the Japanese raw). In all, I have Ch 20 about 30% done out of almost 30 pages of the raw, when copy-pasted into a Google Doc…

I am feeling like translating another KuroKishi chapter to clean out Jade's dirty plots, so expect it sometime soon…

Question of the week: I kinda feel like I should download the raws just in case

weird things happen… But I don’t want to do it manually. Anybody know of a program or software that will let me do that? I did hear about wget, but I’m not sure how to use it. Tips/crash course on wget welcome, or alternative… I will be doing my own research too, but slowly…

P.S. Anybody know how to get rid of the slightly annoying pingback notification in WP whenever I link to other previous posts?

Chapter 20

GDoc here. This was long… And the first part was excruciating. At least the end paid off…

Motive

AN: Gore warning[1]
Viewer discretion advised. [2]
The POV will move from Cornelia to Locke to Leticia to Locke.
AN: Sorry for the many POV changes.

She was the first princess of the Remulshil Empire, Cornelia Raul Kooru Remulshil. [3]
She was second in line to the throne.

Cornelia was the imperial family's only daughter, so aside from blood relatives and those who married in, it was intolerable for her to be touched directly by somebody.
Knowing this, none of the nobles approached her.
People from the marquis houses, such as Regin and Jade were an exception.
On the contrary, they actively approached Cornelia. They saw her as a way to immediately become part of the imperial family.
Of course, Crown Prince Alfred was first in line to the throne, but being her second in line was very valuable.
Because if anything happens to Crown Prince Alfred, she will undoubtedly inherit the crown as Empress.
However, even if they are the sons of prominent nobles, they shouldn't approach Cornelia carelessly.
If they were to approach her against her will, the emperor might even give them a death sentence.
However, not only was this to protect her, but it was also her father the Emperor's selfish desire, which caused her to be isolated at the Knight School.

With Jade at the front, she walked through the forest, between four knights. Due to the scout soldiers who had cleared the path, rather than a march, it was more like a walk in the park.
They continued walking, and eventually, reached the highway.
There, was a luxurious white carriage, and on it, the golden crest of the marquis house was extravagantly engraved.

"Well then, Your Highness. Your hand please…"

Jade climbed into the carriage first, then held out his hand to Cornelia.[4] However, Cornelia didn't accept his hand, and wordlessly boarded the carriage herself.

Jade, who was brushed off, momentarily showed a discouraged expression, but then urged Cornelia to take a seat.
Without any particular reason to reject the offer, she took a seat.

"Alright, let us set off."

At Jade's command, the carriage started moving.
'Is there some sort of magic spell going on?'
'I can't feel the shaking of the carriage at all.'
'This level of performance should only be found in a carriage for the imperial family.'
'In order to make this carriage, how much gold was used?'[5]
The one servant who acted as a mediator between them held out a cup of black tea.
Judging by the smell of the tea leaves, this was also of the highest quality.
The teapot which held the tea also seemed to be magically insulated, since the steam rose from the cup.
She took a sip.
'About these circumstances…'
'It seems that it isn't poisoned.'
Since her mouth and throat was parched due to the tense situations, the tea tasted extremely good.
As if it immediately disappeared down her throat, she drank the tea.
It was a reminder to herself what kind of people Jade and his company were, and

it intimidated her.

After having drank the tea, Cornelia took a breath, then met Jade's gaze.

"So, what type of role will I play in your plan?"

"Please understand. You will merely be our figurehead."

"Your objective?"

"After we eradicate the rebel faction opposing the throne, you will ascend to the throne."
/
"You will not stop the coup d'état?"

When Jade was asked this question, he smiled.

"At this point, even if we take action, it won't be in time. I recommend that your highness take refuge in my territory, and plan a comeback from there."

'How dare you!'

Cornelia became angry, but frantically tried not to let it show.
Having been prepared to kill Regin, the Cliffdorf house definitely had prior information of the coup d'état.
Despite this, they didn't work to prevent it, but preferred to use it to gain political strength.
Most likely, when she ascends to the throne, this man would be standing beside her.
Welt van Cliffdorf as her adviser, and Jade as her husband, it would be that sort of story.
Moreover, they would be hailed as heroes for ending the coup d'état.
Those who don't know anything would undoubtedly praise them.

Jade did not betray any agitation in his eyes, merely sighing in admiration at the princess, who was staring at him.[?1?]
Within those pupils, it was apparent that she had almost grasped Jade and the others' intentions.

"As expected of somebody with the royal blood. Even in this situation, you have nerves of steel. I congratulate you. I now have a slightly better opinion of

you.”

“You are changing this messed up situation for better as you please. By the way, what happened to the other groups?”

“Unfortunately, I fear that they were killed.”

Contrary to his words, Jade appeared unconcerned.
From his answer, Cornelia understood that Jade’s cohort knew that there was a coup, what actions they would take, and also what would happen next.
She recalled that despite the tense atmosphere, they had still talked cheerfully.
She especially thought of Wynn, who had sparred with her countless times during practice.
If Jade’s words were true, even he would have been killed.
Last night, by the campfire, Wynn had spoken passionately about his dream to become a knight.
Even he would have died.
Not living a desirable school life, within her lonely days of isolation, she had finally made a true friend in her training partner.
Once, she had touched his sleeve.[6]
Not as Princess Cornelia, but as Knight Cadet Cornelia, though when she returned after class in the evening, she was scolded by the attendants.
As a knight cadet, she was overlooked, but—
But now, it will never be like that again.
A single tear streamed down her face.

“Are you crying for the people who were killed? The people will support a ruler with such deep compassion. When we retake the capital at dawn, I want you to display your condolences.”

Jade held out a white silken handkerchief.
Cornelia rejected it, and wiping her eyes, she stood up.

“… Can you say so with confidence? Among those who have died, that Brave…”

“About Wynn Byrd? Of course!”

“You know him?”

“Rescuing Your Highness was the highest priority. There was no alternative. I

will use his death. If she learns that the insurgents killed him…”

“The Brave would smash the insurgents?”

Jade smiled coldly.

‘Jade would even make use of hiss death?’[7]

‘Will things really go as planned?’[8]

Certainly, the Brave would have a motive to draw her sword against the insurgents.

However, wouldn’t that blade not only be pointed at the insurgents, but also at the root of the problem, the empire itself?

The consequences of his death — the Empire might have the Brave as its enemy.

“Umm… Won’t Leticia van Mavis oppose them?”

“That is our intention.”

“With them in control of the fort, they intended to use the magic amplifier. However!”

“Gatan,” At that time, the carriage shook a little.

At that point, the carriage that did not shake up until now, as if in a building, shaking began to be felt.

“This is…?”

“It seems that they have set the plan into motion.”

“… Barrier magic.”

The empire’s anti-demon trump card.

It was a wide-area barrier that sealed any magic power.

“Even with that magic, they cannot completely seal the Brave’s magic power, but they still have yet another trump card. Well, if the Brave is killed, then we will have unparalleled influence.”

Unable to watch Jade proudly continue speaking, Cornelia looked out the window.

She gazed at the passing landscape.

Jade and the others have taken the insurgents and the Brave too lightly.

From her Master, whom she had met after four years, she heard that Leticia has unbelievable strength.

Cornelia's Master.
She is the one who holds the title "Holy Woman", Liara Sayn.

One of the Brave's three comrades.
According to Liara, she had fought a multitude of demons and monsters.
She had fought a battle of legendary proportions, so if her magic was sealed, then she wouldn't be a threat, or so they thought.
In the first place, she was an existence which slew the Demon Lord, who could defeat all the world's combined armies.
If they were able to kill her by merely sealing her magic, wouldn't the demons have already defeated the Brave long ago?
Anyways, it was already too late to be worried about that.
If Wynn was killed, the Brave's rage would rain down on this empire.
The other countries would also direct criticisms at the empire.
Even if Jade's plan progressed, the empire would be headed towards ruin.

'Somehow, please calm down.'

In that moving Carriage, Cornelia voiced out that wish. [9]

…

At the time the explosion was heard from the part of the forest the fourth group was in charge of—

In the third Group, Locke and the other students were being surrounded by the knights that accompanied them.
From the beginning, Locke had felt that something was wrong with the knights.
Apart from the captain, who was from the capital, he had seen the other three hold secret conversations many times.
During a short break, even the vice-captain exchanged information behind the captain's back.
Many times, they opened the map, and confirmed the locations of both the third group and the other groups.
They even checked the distance from the fort.

If it were normal, they wouldn't act so strangely.
They might only confirm their route.

However, they did it behind the back of the captain, a knight, and repeatedly.
However he thought about it, it was strange.

From Locke's point of view, he held the title of captain in name only. His body was weak from lack of practice, and he was a man that you wouldn't believe was a knight.
But either way, a superior is a superior, or that was how it was supposed to be.
The goal of making the group, on paper (Locke had decided that the captain was captain only on paper), was supposed to be to teach the essentials of knighthood.[10]
Nevertheless, the captain merely received simple reports of which direction to go and future plans, while the vice-captain received the important reports.

'Hey, something is up.'

"Hey."

"What is it, Locke?"

He whispered to the person marching beside him.

"Something smells fishy.[11] Those guys may be up to something. Just in case, be careful. and tell the others too."

Though he gave Locke a puzzled look, he easily moved beside the student in front of him, and whispered Locke's message.

The reason that Locke could influence the other students like that was because he was from a rich mercantile house.
Due to their commoner origins, high-ranking nobles such as Jade and Regin despised these upstart nobles, but since they were a rare class, the relationship between most nobles and wealthy merchants didn't differ.
Against the social influence of nobility, money was more than enough ammunition. [12]
If they were ordinary nobles, they would not oppose the Marine house.
The nobles only had so much wealth.
If Locke didn't flaunt it, he could interact with most people as equals. Compared

to Wynn, he was much more well-connected.
That's why, after the knight leaders invited them to a place dotted with holes, the knight who was captain fell into a pitfall and was killed, but none of the students did not receive a surprise attack, and the knights weren't able to ambush them.[13]
Nonetheless, for the five inexperienced knight cadets, against the three full-fledged knights, despite outnumbering them, their victory was uncertain.

"I will take on the vice-captain. As for the two knights behind him, attack them two on one, flanking them."

"Got it."

Confronting the vice-captain, Locke raised his shield.[14]

"Locke Marine. I heard that you were the foolish second son of the Marine house, but it seems the rumors were wrong."

"That's not the case. Three years ago, I was that idiot son."

The elder brother, who was the heir received an education, while the second son Locke was given relatively more freedom.
More or less, he was taught by the same teacher as his brother, but behind his parents' backs, he would often sneak out to play with the neighborhood children.
Even when he decided to enter the Knight School, he learned from the children of the nobles who came and went that he only needed to procure the money for the admission fee.
Not wanting to study, he only wanted to get the title of knight while just playing around.
If he graduated from knight school, instead of going to a battlefield, he would be able to work in the capital, where safety is guaranteed.
If he were a knight, the ladies would surely like him.
That was all he thought.

It was superficial.

Three years ago, Locke was no better than a good-for-nothing noble.[15]
Then, when he met Wynn, his way of thinking about knighthood changed

completely.
He was a commoner, he had no family to rely on, and didn't even have magical talent.
Compared to the other students, Wynn had nothing.
However— he, in order to achieve his dream of becoming a knight, spared no effort— and Locke continued to see that figure near himself.

It was dazzling.

He honestly felt amazed.

Wynn held his shield to the front, and gripped his sword.

Until he met Wynn, all he had done was irresponsibly cut corners during sword practice.
Feeling embarrassed at the difference, even when nobody was watching, he practiced swinging his sword.
At times, he would steal a glance and imitate Wynn's practicing form.
Due to that, Locke was able to achieve the runner up position last year in the exam.

'It was due to your help, that I am now not scared of fighting my first real battle.'

Locke slowly inhaled, then slowly exhaled.
He looked straight at the vice-captain.
His four teammates were skillfully forcing a two on one battle.
Being nobility, they had more training in magic than the knights before them.
Though they had less live combat experience and skill, if they fought using body strengthening magic, individually, they should at least be half as good as the knights.[16]

"The other two are at a disadvantage? Until I can slay Apprentice Knight Locke, will they hold out?"

Like Locke, the vice-captain judged the situation similarly.

"If you focus on defense, and manage to hold out while waiting for the other brats to defeat my subordinates… Is that what you thought?"

"Who knows? But please don't kill me off so quickly!"

Locke flashed an intrepid smile.[17]
If either one of the two 2-on-1 battles ended with the knight's defeat, Locke's group's chances of victory would increase.
In other words, all he needed to do was gain time.

"Then show me what you've got!"

Locke parried the vice-captain's blade, which came from behind the vice-captain's shield, with the shield in his left hand.
As expected of a knight who worked his way up from the battlefield.
Even at the level of the mock battles against his classmates, he did not enjoy taking fierce onslaughts.[?2?]
But Locke stopped the blade's path with his shield, parrying each and every blow.

"How incredible. Even though it's your first real battle."

The vice-captain was surprised to notice that Locke was handling his strikes with composure.
He was somebody who had survived each of the numerous battlefields he had fought in.
Rather than fall behind like he expected of a student, Locke continued to handle his attacks admirably.

As one who had become a knight through battlefield achievements, he had thought the sword techniques of the knights from the knight school were merely a form[18], but…

In the realities of a battlefield, it was important for a technique to kill with one blow.
One hardly ever got a second or a third blow.
The vice-captain continued to interweave feints with attacks.
The blows filled with strong killing intent would weaken the mind of the still young apprentice knight, but Locke, who was concentrating on his defense, defended well.
Though the Marine house was a commoner house, they had married with nobility many times, so luckily, he had better than average magic power.
Though Locke fell behind in battle experience and skill, using body reinforcement

magic to strengthen himself, he was able to hold out.

'Besides…'

'Unlike this, the sword of the Master of the Brave is imperceptible even when up close!'

Wynn's sword swings were unbelievably fast.
It rivals the one who holds the title "Divine Sword Princess", Leticia van Mavis.
He had seen the Brave, who held monstrous strength, as she fought.
Compared to the speed of those attacks, these attacks won't reach him. He only needed to hold out until backup arrived.[?3?]

Locke braced his legs to block the vice-captain's blade with his shield— but then—

"Huh?"

From his arms, his legs, his whole body, the strength left him. [19]

With a clang, as the sword hit the shield, Locke was blown backwards.

"Gah…"

The air was knocked out of his lungs as he hit a tree behind him.

"Gyaaaaaa!"

Though he was dazed, Locke was not knocked out. He rose to his knee as he heard a scream.
Tasting iron in his mouth, he looked towards the source of the scream.
There, his classmate was rolling on the ground, with his right arm cut off.
The other person was already impaled by the sword in his abdomen.
He couldn't see the other group of fighters.
While fighting, they had moved away.
However, he heard another scream.
It was most likely a cry of agony…

'What… the heck…?'

"It is time."

The vice-captain expressionlessly looked down towards Locke.

Unsteadily standing up, the shield in his left hand, and the sword in the right hand felt heavy to Locke.

“The magic power… I can’t feel it?”

“Were you not told in class? One of the Imperial Capital Simurgh’s protective magic, Magic Sealing Barrier, was activated.”

Centered around the imperial capital Simurgh, were six towers, which could cast anti-magic power barrier magic using magic tools.
Anybody within the area surrounded by the six towers would have their magic power sealed, as a countermeasure against demons who can take in miasma as a source of magic power. The spell is one of the Remulshil Empire’s trump cards.
Having their magic power sealed, Locke and the others’ strengthening magic was forcibly dispelled.

“You planned to stall for time, but time has passed, and we have the upper hand. It was your miscalculation!”

He somehow blocked a sideswipe with his shield, but his body took the brunt of the force.
Two strikes, three strikes, he was pressured by the slashes.

“Kuh…”

Every time the shield was hit by the sword, Locke was pushed back.

“The reason nobles are so stuck-up, is because of their strengthening magic! With their magic power sealed, The royal knights and the imperial guards who protect the capital are not our match!”

With the magic power sealed, not only the demons, but the nobles would also be weakened.[20]
Due to their magical aptitude, they had been continually blessed by the strong protection of body reinforcement magic.
Therefore, against the veteran soldiers with only their physical abilities, they would win.
However, with their magic power sealed, it was different.
If both sides’ magic power were sealed such as now, the knights who had continued to diligently train themselves everyday would be superior.

Now, the students, having their magic power sealed, were defeated in the blink of an eye.
It was also a matter of time before Locke was killed.

“Hah!”

“—tsu!”

At last, after enduring countless strikes, Locke’s shield broke.
When his shield broke, the tip of the sword scratched his arm, and now blood dripped from his left arm.

“Come to think of it, Apprentice Knight Locke isn’t a noble, but more or less a commoner. However, for this plan, all outsiders are a potential obstacle. Unfortunately, you will also have to die.”

Locke’s sword dropped to the ground, and he crouched, holding his left arm.
His breathing rough and disorderly, he had already reached the limit of his stamina.
And yet, Locke continued to glare at the approaching vice-captain, but he had no more strength to reach for the sword.
Glaring once more at the figure standing before his eyes, with the sword raised overhead, Locke then lowered his head in resignation.

…

“… The capital is completely enclosed by the barrier.”

Leticia slowly looked around.
Because of one of the teachers, that day, Leticia had received instructions to come to the classrooms, knowing she was being invited.
A man stood before her.
In that room, she, the aged man, and children aged from 10 to twelve— the people who were admitted into knight school at the minimum age— only the children who were admitted this year were gathered.

“Apart from this seven-fold barrier formation sealing my magic power, are these children hostages, I wonder?”

“Don’t worry. We don’t want you to become an obstacle. It seems that even while being affected by the barrier spell, you are still clad in such strong magic

power. Are you really human?”

Leticia didn’t answer.
She glared at the man clad in a black hood standing behind him.

“A demon, huh.”

“That~ is~ right~!”[21]

The demon responded, feigning foolishness.

“I am happy to have met the famous Brave-sama.”

“To even borrow the power of demons… the Empire’s heroes have stooped to quite a low level.”

The tone of Leticia’s voice became calm.
Contrary to the tone of her voice, she had an intimidating air.
Up until Leticia was born as the Brave, he had been a general who fought against the demons over the course of many years.
Now, as the principal of the knight school, Zaunasu showed a bitter smile.[?4?]

“I am honoured that Brave-dono has called us heroes.”

‘I have retired from the front lines three years ago.’
‘In those three years, this young girl had been fighting demons for the Empire on the front lines.’
‘This is nothing but shameful.’

“Of the people who live in the Empire, there is nobody who doesn’t know of you. Especially if they had served in the army.”

With the four years Leticia spent fighting, she had protected the empire, and ended the fighting on the front lines for ten times longer.
She was like a living legend to the empire.

“Honestly, I had no choice but to involve the demons in order not to lose[?5?]. On that note, we couldn’t have a practical conversation with you. I plan to talk it out with you someday, but this was unfortunate.”“dbl check”

“Using the magic sealing barrier covering the capital, the noble knight’s magic power would be stolen. Then, were you going to use your superior physical

abilities to take control?”[22]

“It is as you said, Leticia-kun.”

Zaunas replied.
His eyes glowed with affectionate praise for his wonderful subordinates.
For Zaunas, Leticia was the same age as his grandson would have been if he hadn’t been killed on the battlefield.

“Of course, we cannot overthrow the palace, but well, that’s not a problem. Our objective is not His Highness the Emperor.”

“Then, what do you want?”

“The eradication of the rotten knight order and nobility!”

Those words held a strong intent— and hatred.

“Look before you. The knights at this knight school are like eggs. The knights expected to be the future shields of the empire are in a disastrous state!”

Tightening his clenched fist, Zaunas grit his teeth as he forced out those words.

“My children and grandchildren all sacrificed their lives fighting demons and monsters. My subordinates, in order to protect their family and loved ones, died on the battlefield to protect them.”

‘But, for what?’

The knight order that had ordered them to their deaths was dominated by nobility, nobility whom had lived while wallowing in extravagance while countless knights and soldiers died.
While the proud and noble guardians of the empire, became covered in blood and dirt, they immersed themselves in the fragrance of women, while their mouths enjoyed fine liquor and delicacies that one would normally only be able to taste once in a lifetime. Those mouths were the same ones which ordered the deaths of those guardians.
‘For the sake of those who died protecting the empire’s people, I must eradicate the corruption.’

‘So that those guardians and the people can leave this world in peace.’
‘That was all.’

“Now, the imperial capital Simurgh is affected by the large scale magic sealing barrier. The aristocratic knights who rely on magic are no match for my subordinates.”

Zaunas’s subordinates would be able to take control of the school, obviously, but also knight order headquarters, and the imperial court.
Quite a few people from the capital’s knight order were dispatched onto the subjugation mission.
About now, Zaunas’s subordinates from the fort would begin their surprise attack.
With their magic sealed, everybody in each group would have to fight with their own strength, and leadership ability.
Compared to the knights and nobles who lived in peace far removed from the front lines, Zaunas and his subordinates, who had survived constant battles, would not fall behind.
It was only a matter of time until they took control of all the capital’s critical institutions.

“Until the capital is in the palm of my hands, you should just sit here obediently.”

“I understand your feelings well. I sympathize with you. However, right here, among them, are also people who sincerely believe in becoming a knight and protecting the empire.”

“Like your Master?”

Zaunas faced Leticia with a gentle smile.

“You are speaking of Cadet Wynn, right? I know of how hard he works, spending every day studying and training. However, if he were still alive, he wouldn’t be able to become a knight.”

“The apprentice knights, and some knight cadets, they’re carrying out the subjugation mission near the fort where one of the barrier magic installations are. What will happen to those who participated in the mission?”

At that question, Zaunas merely closed his eyes.

“Even if they are students, they can at least use swords and magic, so they may

become obstacles to our goal.”

“Is that so…”

Leticia let out a small mutter, while slowly reaching for the sword at her waist. The sword let out a slight glow, despite being within the magic sealing barrier, while she let out a strong atmosphere of intimidation.
It was the holy sword gifted by the goddess Anastasia.

“Incredible~. To be able to move even from within our barrier… Frightening. Truly frightening.[23]”

The demon in the black hood acted exaggeratedly with mock surprise, hiding himself behind Zaunas’s back.
If it were a normal existence, being inside the seven-fold barrier formation would make the whole body feel heavy, unable to move.
However, Leticia’s movements defied nature itself.

“Even so, being trapped within the barrier, you won’t be able to defeat this general-san, yanno[24]?”

Cackling, he peeked at Leticia from behind Zaunas’s back.

“With your beloved Master among the dead, could it be, that you got mad~?”[25]

The Brave whose master was killed would turn her force towards both the ringleaders, and the nobles around them.
Then, even if the plan fails, the noble’s downfall would still definitely succeed.

At first he and his subordinates were merely going to carry out this plan.
With the black-hooded demon’s suggested modifications, the Brave would surely be criticized in the ages to come.[?6?]
In addition, the other nations would also pile criticisms at the very empire who had roused the Brave’s anger.
If the empire weakened, it might be invaded,
However, with the empire’s power rapidly decreasing, it would fall to ruin one way or another.
With that facing them, it was necessary for the heart of the country to be purged.

For that reason, many of those near the border, who had received Zaunas's education, tried to stay uninvolved.
They would have to gain time until the heart of the country had been purified and reformed.

"It was I who handed down the order for your master, Cadet Wynn, to be killed."

However, in response to Zaunas's words—

"Fufu….ahahaha"

Leticia's cold expression broke into sudden laughter.
The murderous air of intimidation she gave off also vanished, and the person who kept on laughing was only a beautiful lady.
Suddenly, upon seeing the laughing Brave, the children who were crying in fear, stopped crying in surprise, and looked at her.

"What's so funny!?"

Dumbfoundedly looking at Leticia from behind Zaunas, the demon in the black hood leaned out further with slight irritation in his voice.

"Fufu… Magic sealing barrier, is it? Certainly, the nobles and you demons would be affected. Actually, since you are a demon, you can't even feel strong magic power."

Leticia spoke with amusement.

"Hey, all of you. Have you heard the titles I was given as the Brave?"

"Eh…?"

Casually turning around with a smiling face, she asked the bewildered children.

"Hey hey, have you gone crazy from the shock?"

"Why the sudden change? Leticia-kun?"

However, Leticia ignored Zaunas and the black-hooded demon, crouching down to the students.

"Umm… 'The one closest to god' and 'Divine Sword Princess'?"

A ten-year-old boy met her gaze, and answered with a slight blush.

“Yes, that’s right. ‘Divine Sword Princess’.”

Leticia smiled warmly at the boy, then slowly stood up.

“Sir Zaunas, the reason I call Knight Cadet Wynn my Master, do you know why?”

Her back to him, Leticia’s voice once again grew cold as she spoke to Zaunas.

“If I remember correctly… I heard that, as childhood friends, you learned the sword from him?”

“Yes. However, did you think that I would call him Master for just that?”

Slowly, Leticia turned around.
She held up the blade that slew a demon lord, the “Holy Spirit Blade Eluna Blade” in her right hand in front of her.

“The nickname “Divine Sword Princess” was given to me by the Sword Saint Raul Holt Leon, whose strength falls far short of mine.”

She closed her eyes, and smiled again.
As for Zaunas, though she was a girl that would be around his grandson’s age, he unwittingly became fascinated with her beauty.
Rather, it wasn’t only Zaunas.
The classroom fell silent upon Leticia’s calm voice, even the demon in the black hood, as if spellbound by Leticia’s atmosphere.[26]

“Four years ago, when I set off as the Brave, I had never been defeated, Not even once. Other than…”

Opening her eyes again, she faced Zaunas.
She lowered her sword, her right hand hanging by her side.
The Seven-fold Barrier Magic Array was supposed to make one’s whole body feel like they were bound by chains, but she moved so lightly as if she didn’t feel it.
Her movements were natural.
Then, Leticia showed a smile of a girl in love.
Anybody would undoubtedly be surprised and charmed by that smile.

“Against that me, only one single person, without magic, whom I could not win against. Even now, I would only win if I used magic. That is why, I call him— Onii-

chan— Master.”

…

Locke hung his head, facing the ground.
The vice-captain decided to strike with a blow to the head to reduce the suffering, but suddenly, he showed a perplexed expression.
It was because Locke’s shoulders were shaking slightly.

“Ha, hahaha…”

Holding his injured left arm, Locke let out a dry laugh.

“Aiming to buy time, huh…Certainly, our aims differed little, but…”

“What is it? Do you have any last words? It is the end for you. Do you want them heard?”

“Well, no…”

Locke continued to chuckle[27].

“I just understood pain. To see that change, it truly is a monster.”

Locke looked up.

“As expected of ‘The Master of the Brave’.”

In his gaze was—

“Vice-captain!”

His subordinate urgently warned him.

“What!?”

When he looked behind him, he saw somebody imitating a knight draw near while letting out an explosive amount of killing intent.
With any magic power sealed, body strengthening magic should have been dispelled.
However, that speed far surpassed Locke’s — no, everybody’s speed.

“Wha-What is this!?”

He turned around and begun to slash at Wynn, who was approaching at an unbelievable speed, but due to his astonishment, his swing was too wide.

Due to that, Wynn's blade sunk into his virtually undefended right torso.

"Vice-captain!"

With an unbelieving expression on his face, he turned around to face Wynn, who had run past him.
Wynn stood in front of the kneeling Locke, his knight's sword ready.
The vice-captain opened and closed his mouth twice, thrice, then fell forward.

"You bastard!"

The two other knights who had neutralized the students were incensed, and attacked him.
One person swung his sword downward, while the other stabbed at him.
However—

"Huh?"

"He vanished!?"

Wynn dropped down, dodging the slash and darted around the slashing knight's left side, using the shield's blind spot, then kicked the shield.

"Uwah!?"

The knight who was kicked went flying into the other knight, destroying both their stances.
They picked up their swords which had fallen to the ground, and when they turned back—
Wynn's sword beheaded the knight.[28]
Wynn leapt over the corpse, which was spurting blood as it fell, and closed in on the last surviving knight.

"Shi-, shit."

With an awkward stance, and no strength in his sword, Wynn's sword flickered —
Wynn's sword thrust at the base of his neck.

AN:How Wynn cut his way out of his crisis will be explained next chapter.

Translator notes

1. In the age of violent video games and other media, what is there to be worried about?–back
2. Very loose translation of AN–back
3. Name inconsistency by author, it seems… not that it matters, at least the author didn't spell it Cordelia… I'm not sure why that is happening…–back
4. Thank creepy Jade for the KuroKishi chapter…–back
5. Decadence: excessive indulgence…–back
6. what?–back
7. AU: Wynn has died, Leti crushes the insurgents, Cornelia tells her that Jade knew about the plot all along… Yandere Bad End for everybody…–back
8. No.–back
9. Spoiler alert: Wynn appears at the end of the chapter!–back
10. slightly awkward wording to preserve the reused word–back
11. haven't seen this idiom in a while…–back
12. silver bullets: only the rich can kill vampires–back
13. this breed of knight cadets is a lot luckier… Go Locke!–back
14. Locke just got more badass points… His name already gave him some in my opinion. How many people know who the Earth Locke is?–back
15. Slight pun, maybe? Locke(Rokku) was a "Roku-demonai"–back
16. Strength of Student=s; Strength of Knight =k; s>k/2–back
17. intrepid: daring. SAT vocab of the day!–back
18. as in not good for real battles, just a decoration–back
19. I should have seen this coming… but I didn't…–back
20. When the demons attack: "I have weakened you, at the cost of weakening myself the same amount! In short, nothing has changed!" Speaking of, what happened to rokudenashi majutsushi akashic something something? Is joeglens alive?–back
21. I assume this is an obnoxiously cheerful voice, like Arifureta's Miledi (not checking the spelling the troll golem dungeon-master)–back
22. I just thought of something applicable: Rise, Proletariat!–back
23. turn that kowai into a kawaii! Leticia is cute!–back
24. desho-> sho, you know-> yanno–back
25. the ~ seems to be just an obnoxious thing if the speaker has it…nyoro nyoro…–back

26. redundant addition?: there was not even a word spoken, nor a knock sounded, since they were drawn in by the atmosphere. See raws for reference if ou want.–back
27. sfx: kusukusu–back
28. “mess with the best, die like the rest.” Quote from xkcd quoting something else… —back

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Translator needs help

1. dbl check motivation and energy low!–back
2. take with some salt–back
3. dbl check–back
4. Zornas, Saunas, Zornath?–back
5. shika dekinakatta?–back
6. ???–back

And so, we have a less painful and more epic cliff… This was a long chapter… It is 33 pages of japanese + english lines on the Google Doc… In other measurements, 634 lines of raws…

The second half is not as thoroughly edited as the first half. Please forgive it, and help me where I was still unsure, if you can.

I have decided to pick up KuroKishi, but it will be posted by Xant after his minions finish editing it. I will work on it whenever I have free translating time after my YnO quota for the week is translated. I have sent chapter 21 yesterday. Chapter 20 did take a bit more than a week to edit, but the editing seems more thorough than what I do here. Look forward to it!

P.S. I just realized that me doing this pingback thing, which I complained about being annoying, allows me to be technically first on all my posts…

Chapter 21

GDoc here. Epicness, then melancholy…

Master and Student

“Oi, Wynn. In front of you…”

Faster than Locke could speak, with an explosive sound as he stepped, Wynn instantly accelerated.

“Wha-, what?”

“Where did he come from?”

Panicked, a pair of soldiers jabbed at him with their spears.
Without slowing down, he dodged the spear tips with small sidesteps.
In that moment, while the soldier’s weapons were extended, he slashed upwards at the defenseless soldiers’ sides into their chests.

“Shi-, shit.”

Another soldier drew his sword and tried to slash at him, but the bodies of his comrades killed by Wynn’s blade prevented him from attacking.
While the soldier was occupied, Wynn stabbed him from behind the corpses.
As the point struck the soldier in the chest, piercing through his heart, the light died from the soldier’s eyes.
As the blade was pulled out, the body fell forward.
A pool of blood spread onto the rocky ground, and the surroundings smelled of blood.
It was done all in a moment.
It was before the sentry soldiers had time to recover from their surprise and call for reinforcements.
Locke could only watch all this happen from behind.
Taking into account the fact that his magic power sealed by the “Magic Sealing Barrier”, Locke was completely surprised by Wynn’s nonsensical physical abilities.

Being evenly matched with those who use body strengthening magic, Locke realized that this was extraordinary.
Moreover, at that moment, with virtually everybody, friend and foe alike, unable to use magic, he realized that common sense had been overturned.

“Now there is nobody else anymore. Let’s go, Locke.”

After checking around the bend, Wynn started running.
Though he was thinking ‘I wasn’t really needed,’ Locke followed after Wynn.
Though he trained himself, without magic to strengthen him, Locke’s physical abilities were slightly better than an average soldier.
Wynn, who had joined up with Locke, proposed to go to the capital alone, while he should run and hide somewhere.[1]
However, Locke rejected the proposal.
It was reasonable.
Since Locke also wanted to become a knight.
To run away as Wynn suggested, as a friend, and as a comrade, he wouldn’t do it.
Wynn recognized his indomitable will, and gave in.
Wynn didn’t say another word about Locke’s refusal to temporarily flee.

If Wynn truly wanted, he could have left Locke behind in the blink of an eye, but instead, he matched Locke’s pace as they advanced.
It wasn’t like he was worried about him or anything.[2]
When asked about his reason for doing so, he replied that slowing down to a normal speed would allow him to take any enemies by surprise.
Certainly, after recently seeing a step able to propel him over ten paces in an instant, Locke believed that he could engage the enemy head on, and kill them before they could react.
This was what would normally happen when an ordinary knight faced off against a common soldier.
As they moved through the forest, Wynn told Locke about how he defeated the dangers that Locke and the other apprentice knights faced.
As Wynn recounted his story, Locke followed several steps behind him.

The total amount of Wynn’s magic power was far less than an average human’s.

The average commoner could still use spells like “Light”, “Firelight”, and elementary level defensive magic, but to create more than just fire or ice, but to use explosions or frost to occur in attack magic requires a large amount of magic power, and the average commoner could only try, before they would lose consciousness from running out of magic power. That was why his grades in the magic classes were abysmal.

This was a handicap for him, who wanted to become a knight.

In a battlefield, magical combat was indispensable.
When a battle breaks out, the royal court magicians would chant ritual magic and cast magic for large-scale destruction and wide-area barriers. Meanwhile, catapults would fire incessantly in the downtime, then the knights would rain magic and the archers would fire arrows.
On a large-scale battlefield, Wynn would be useless as a knight.

That was why he aimed to become a knight by entering knight school.

Many of the knights from the knight school were assigned to the Imperial Guard Knight Order, or the Royal Knight Order.
Though the imperial guards and royal knights were grouped together, there were actually differences between them.

Eminent nobles made up the Imperial Guard Knight Order.
On the other hand, the lower-ranked nobles and those from knight houses made up the Royal Knight Order.

Wynn’s goal, was the latter, the Royal Knight Order.
Unlike the Imperial Guard Knight Order, which needed connections to join and whose quality seemed to be deteriorating, the Royal Knight Order was made of the most elite knights.
The duties of the royal knights were of a larger breadth than the imperial guards, whose duty was to guard the imperial family. They served as the main line of defense for the palace and the capital.
At the center of the empire, they gathered intelligence, and also undertook escort missions of VIPs.
Their battlefield was the capital city, but there sometimes were times when they made use of their advanced education to infiltrate hostile areas.

Therefore, when they left for their battlefields, they weren't clumsy.
They weren't a force meant for large-scale battles, but were a knight order which made use of their individual fighting strength.
Though they didn't escort the imperial family, the royal knight order, which occasionally escorted important state guests, was not an order one could enter with half-baked strength.

It was a very selective knight order.

Wynn had no other alternative than to aim for that place.
The inability to use magic was a large handicap for him.
Wynn had lost to long-range magic attacks since his first year examination.
So for the next examination one year later, he perfected a countermeasure.

"I, who has understood the way of fire, Fireball!"

When he decided that he wouldn't be able to catch up, the vice-captain cast attack magic.
It was a well-used spell in the battlefield: when it hit the target, as it exploded, flames would spread. It was an attack magic with high killing potential.
As Wynn moved, as swift as the wind, unaffected by the bad terrain, he looked back as he heard the chant and felt the heat behind him.

His left hand flashed quickly.

A silver light cut through the air.
It was the same attack that had intrigued the vice-captain when the demonic beast had attacked.

Fundamentally, in the central part of the spell, was was something like a core, which, if hit, would have an effect.
In this case, the fireball would blow up, causing an explosion.
The silver light Wynn had launched — the short-sword Leticia had presented him with— flew into the fireball, as if it were absorbed.
In the next moment, flames burst out as the explosion boomed.

"Gah!"

Receiving the shock of the explosion from a close range, beginning with the vice-captain, the three knights were blown away, and hit the ground.

As the explosion subsided, the three men were on the ground, groaning.
Their legs were bent in impossible directions, and though they weren't dead, blood flowed from their heads.
In order to escape from the explosion, as he threw the short-sword, at the same time, he dove into a ditch.
He approached the fallen knights.
The short-sword was stuck in a tree some ways off.
Despite having been hit with an explosion of that level, the short-sword Leticia had given him was not even covered with soot, and continued to give off a faint luminescence.
He returned the short-sword to the scabbard at his waist, and began running.
'Near the fourth group is Locke's group, the third group.'
'It shouldn't be only my group that ended up in this situation.'
Locke and Cornelia should still be defending against their attacks.
'Estimating the time it would take for this plan of action, I should be able to save Locke in the third group.'

Wynn left, leaping lightly with energetic movements.

While he had saved up for the tuition by acting as an adventurer, he had gotten used to moving through places with bad footing.
Along the way, he felt an uncomfortable feeling, but he kept running without paying any attention to it. Right then, he was just in time to see Locke about to be killed.[?1?]

…

"At any rate, I think it was good that you came at that point."

"It was thanks to you, Locke, that I realized magic was sealed. They ended relaxing their guard."

"But well, something will soon be attracted to this smell…"

Locke patted his injured left arm and grimaced at the smell coming from his body.
His left arm was already wrapped in bandages, thanks to Wynn.
As the only survivors, they hurried to the fort to find out what had happened.
At the plaza in front of the entrance to the fort, where they had practiced

camping the night before, lay two corpses.

They were Nigel and Irusu.

They were the knights who acted as the captains of the periodic subjugation mission.

“Now what do we do?”

“First of all, we should sabotage the magic amplifying device.”

They were hidden among the thickets as they surveyed the fort.
The drawbridge that led to the gate was raised, so a frontal infiltration seemed difficult.
Two soldiers stood guard from a window above the gate.

“Locke, this way.”

Wynn gestured, and stealthily moved towards the fort while hiding in the thickets.
While hiding from the patrolling soldiers and guards along the way, Wynn reached the moat surrounding the fort.

“I wasn’t just pretending to be an adventurer on the surface, I had to hide from monsters many times, you know?”

Wynn whispered with a proud expression on his face upon Locke’s admiration at his ability to discern well-hidden locations.

“Since they also can’t use magic here, we’re lucky that they can’t use any detection magic.”

That is why they tried to isolate themselves from all outsiders.
Soon, Wynn pointed towards an opening in the fort’s walls.

“We’ll get in from there.”

“What? But that’s—”

“It is where the kitchen waste is thrown into the river.”[3]

“Ewww….”

The amount of trash produced by a fort that often held a thousand people was not trivial.

Some of the waste could be used as fertilizer within the fort, but most of it was just thrown into the river, as is.

“There is another garbage chute, but…”

“…Let’s go with the kitchen waste one please.”

Fortunately, none of them had any heavy armaments.
They swam across the river, and climbed the stone wall into the chute.

“Ewww… it’s slimy…”

“Please bear with it.”

“This is nice and all, but how did you know about this place?”

“Every summer, for a fortnight[4], I participate in the training that happens at the fort. I always work to clean this place.”

“Wow… It must be hard to clean this place in the summer…”

When it gets warmer, insects swarm and the stench is especially terrible.
Due to his experience at the on-site training during the summertime, he seriously doubted that anybody would clean this sort of place.
Only commoners like Wynn, would clean it when he came every year.
Normally, there were hired servants who would do it, but in this situation, he believed that there wouldn’t be any more of them in the fort.
‘They were probably all fired,’ Wynn thought.
As expected, there were no human presences in the fort’s kitchen.
Though there should have been some sort of detection magic guarding from the outside, it seemed that the magic sealing barrier had neutralised it.
They probably didn’t have enough personnel to guard every place.
Luckily, for that reason, no knights or soldiers approached this place.

The first thing they did after climbing out of the chute was to search for a cloth to wipe the slime off of their bodies.
As expected, even Wynn was slightly grossed out by that sort of thing.[5]

Exiting the kitchen, they accidentally met two patrolling soldiers, but after that, they had stealthily moved through the fort.
Their goal was to disrupt the magic amplification device.

Wynn didn’t judge whether or not the insurgents of coup d’état were in the right.

However, they were going to kill the all the students, including him and Locke.[?2?]

Due to that, Wynn saw them as an irreconcilable enemy.

Upon seeing his friend almost killed, he couldn’t find any more reason to forgive them.

The one with the largest war potential in Imperial Capital Simurgh, Leticia, would probably also have taken measures against the insurgent faction.

If Wynn understood Leticia’s full strength from the rumours, they might pose no threat to her, but having her magic sealed would still be harsh for her.[6]

However, whether or not her magic is unsealed, if it’s Leticia, she should somehow manage.

“Mu!? You bastards!”

“Hey, we’ve been discovered. Wynn!”

“I got it!”

Not unexpectedly, they were discovered as they climbed the staircase.

At the pointed, investigative voice, Locke’s feet instantly stopped, but Wynn had sped up.

However, Wynn’s feet also stopped after a while.

“Instructor Aldo… …”

“Cadet Wynn.”

There stood the man who had guided him for one short month.

“You really ended up being our final obstacle.”

A faint smile appeared on his face.

“I heard the situation from the slain knights in the forest. But, why did you have to also kill the students!?”

“…Anybody who can wield a weapon, though they may be students, could become a threat. We had already decided to do this when we began our plan.”

“If we were to be rendered powerless, there should have been another way.”

If the knight instructors took off their equipment, the students would also take off theirs.
Moreover, they could have just surrounded and captured them.

“That was one of our objectives, Cadet Wynn. You life has significance. If you died, that ‘Brave’ would undoubtedly become incensed. To where would that wrath be directed? Towards we who caused it to happen— the imperial knight order.”[7]

“… That… is certainly true…”

Locke reflexively agreed.
Seeing as Leticia adored Wynn so much, if he died, her wrath would definitely be directed towards them.
The problem was, it might not affect only the knight order, but probably affect the whole empire.

“In order to create the smallest scapegoat possible, this plan was refined. Right now, we can no longer pull back, so we must eliminate any possible obstacles to the plan.”

The knights and soldiers pointed their spear tips and blades at Wynn and Locke.

“The plan has already started! With the magic sealed, the last part is for them to experience it! We, the true knights, will make those pigs, who indulge in luxury without fighting, taste the extent of our power! Even if our enemies be students and children, and even the man the Brave calls ‘Master!’ ”

Aldo shouted out instructions to the soldiers.
Simultaneously, the soldiers stabbed out with their spears.
As the spear-tips approached, Wynn swung his sword.
The spear-tips in his blade’s path were cut off, and went flying, leaving only wooden sticks.

“True Knights!? The type of knight I aspire to be aren’t like you guys!”

Wynn leapt among the knights, as if he were performing a sword dance.
Wherever the blade flashed, blood sprayed from the soldiers’ hands that held the spears and swords.

“Locke, we’re breaking through! I leave the rear to you!”

“O-, okay!”

He decided not to retreat backwards, but advance upwards.
He paid no heed to the cries of pain from the knights and soldiers as he sliced off their hands, and slashed at their torsos.
There were people who bore the pain to pursue and assault Wynn, but Locke suppressed them.
Their movements dulled by injuries, Locke could overwhelm them.
Meanwhile, Wynn continued his bloody blade dance.
The blade slipped through the ineffectual spear-tips coming from all directions.

“We miscalculated, Sir…”

Aldo also drew a sword.
In order to fight the aristocratic knights and take over the capital’s key institutions, they sealed magic, and used the very best people.
One person, in front of their eyes, ferociously swinging his sword, the student who so aspired to become a knight, exceeded their calculations.

He had seen it during training.
The one able to defeat a magically strengthened opponent.

After having their own magic sealed, against Wynn, who had never used magic in the first place, they had weakened themselves.
Seeing how Wynn fought from up close, he could see traces of the Brave fighting, which he had seen from afar.

Before he knew it, Wynn and Locke had broken through the mass of knights and soldiers, and now stood before him.
If he looked around, the groans of the wounded soldiers were the only things audible.
Blood dripped from Wynn’s blade, and his whole body was dyed a deep crimson from the blood.
Creating that gruesome scene, a single student had overwhelmed veteran knights.

“What I want to be is a knight that protects the powerless! I don’t want to be a knight that only resolves things with force like you guys!”

While breathing heavily, Wynn forced his voice out.
That sharp glint in his eye pierced Aldo.

Wynn had not known that Leticia had saved the world as the Brave.

‘Onii-chan, Onii-chan.’

The girl who had always walked behind him, following him, was assigned a mission to save the world, and at the end of the arduous, bitter journey, she slew the Demon Lord.

After she slew the Demon Lord, it should have become peaceful.
But despite that—

Right now, a tremendous amount of blood was being shed all over the place.
Though the Brave should have brought about peace, even now, blood was being shed.

“I am not like Leti, who can protect many people. However, I want to become a knight that can protect the people within my reach! It will happen sometime! In a different way than your methods!”

Wynn exclaimed as he leapt.

‘A straightforward attack!’

In only a month of practice, he had observed the swordplay that had ended his subordinate’s lives.
By casting away shields and armour, it was a sword technique that focused on speed.

‘If that is the case, then kill the speed.’

Though the speed was fueled by fury, it was a straightforward attack—extremely easy to read.
Defending Wynn’s strike with his shield, he slashed while Wynn wasn’t moving.
Aldo used his experience to predict the trajectory of Wynn’s blade, then prepared his shield.
And Wynn’s blade arced in the trajectory Aldo predicted.

‘I’ll receive it!’

Deflecting the sword with his shield, his sword stabbed out from behind the

shield.
Flicking away the sword, the point moved vigorously towards the weakened Wynn's head— instead of flesh, the point of the sword pierced through empty air.
Wynn took a low stance as his sword moved towards Aldo's chest, who still had his sword held out..
There was no time to bring back his shield.
Having put all his strength into his own stab, it was impossible to evade this attack.
At that moment, Aldo saw Wynn's pupils.
There was no more unbridled fury, only calm composure in his eyes.

'An unrecognized genius… huh.'

Aldo instantly felt the blow piercing his chest, and then Aldo lost his consciousness for eternity.

In a room twenty meters wide. [8]
In the center, a black lithograph floated in the air.[9]
It was engraved with closely packed magic words, and below the floating lithograph similar magic words were etched, forming the magic formation.
Though there weren't any windows, the lithograph and magic formation emitted a pale blue light, illuminating the room.
There were six forts centered around the capital.
On each of their highest floors, identical magic formations and lithographs were installed.
In cases of emergency, these devices would be activated, and the magic of the empire's magic users would be amplified.
Right now, it was using this, that the Magic Sealing Barrier was cast over the capital, and that the Seven-fold Barrier Formation was used to seal the Brave.
Wynn and Locke stood there, bathed in the luminescence of the lithograph and the formation,

"In the end, we must depend on Leti."

Neither Wynn nor Locke had any strength.
However, not Leticia.

As a duke's daughter, and as the most-celebrated Brave.

"It can't be helped. Being so far from the capital, we can only do this much."

Locke placed his hand on Wynn's shoulder.

"That's right. Compared to saving the world, she really was dragged into something foolish."

'Now, I wonder what Leticia is thinking, while in this confrontation.'

Wynn swung his sword down onto the lithograph.
His blade chipping due to repeated overuse, Wynn used his sword to smash the lithograph, and the magic formation at his feet stopped glowing.

"Sorry, Leti. I entrust the rest to you."

'It's alright. Leave it to me, Onii-chan.'

Wynn felt like he heard Leticia's voice whisper in his ear.

"… It's alright. Leave it to me, Onii-chan."

Smiling, Leticia closed her eyes.
She suddenly felt her magic power return.

"Wha!? The barrier is gone?"

"Eeh!? How could it be? What are they doing, your subordinates~?"

The sense of weariness that recently enveloped her body grew weaker, and vanished, as if it were a lie.
The magic power had returned.

"Who sabotaged the device…?"

"… Onii-chan did it."

Leticia quietly replied.
With that, a sudden storm of magic power assaulted Zaunas and the Black-hooded demon.

"Gu-, Guh…"

"A-, a-, aaah"

Unable to even breathe, oppressive atmosphere was more intense than those

he had felt while traversing tens of thousands of battlefields.
It all came from a girl standing ten-odd paces away.
She was wrapped in a golden shine as magic leaked from her body.

It was the “Brave,” Leticia van Mavis.

There stood the girl that became a legend.
Suddenly, Zaunas felt the wind.

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!”

From behind Zaunas, a shriek erupted in the room.

“Wha!?”

Turning around, the black-hooded demon was impaled onto the wall.
Leticia slowly drew her sword.
With a slight sound, the black-hooded demon melted into black dust and vanished.

‘So like this—’[?3?]

He couldn’t see it at all.
Praised as a hero, his own eyes couldn’t even follow it.

So this is, “The one closest to god,” who had defeated the Demon King, Leticia van Mavis!

“I will never forgive you for involving Onii-chan. However, I sympathise with you.”

Taking her eyes of the now-vanished demon, she faced Zaunas.
Zaunas recovered from his surprise, taking deep breaths.
‘My body is heating up.’
He felt exhilaration from facing a strong opponent after several years.

“It is an honour to fight the Brave once in my life’s final moments ”

Drawing his sword, he stood at ready.

“I promise. Certainly, I will not interfere further.”

“Is that so. Now, please convey your thoughts.”

Leticia returned Zaunas’s smile.

“Let’s go! Leticia van Mavis!”

With a piercing scream, Zaunas swung his greatsword at Leticia.
Handed down for generations through his family, it was a powerful magic sword.
Of course, it fell short of the holy sword, but even then, it was still a sharp sword.
He poured all his magic power, and his whole spirit into one blow—

“Gah…!?”

The sword was knocked away, and with it, Zaunas was blown several meters back.
Without any defensive actions[10], he hit the ground.
He had no idea what happened.
It all happened in an instant.
Enduring the pain, using the greatsword as a support, he rose to his knee.

“Impos…sible, for it to be this…”

His face twisted in agony, he looked at Leticia.
She who held the title of Brave had not taken one step from that spot.
He understood.
She had simply brushed off the attack to which Zaunas had devoted himself.
It was only that.
Somehow righting himself, he stood on his knees.
Among the people who were watching their battle, the children, Zaunas’s subordinates, not one sound leaked out. They were unable to believe their eyes.

“Here I go.”

Holding her sword towards his chest, Leticia quietly spoke.

“Come!”

Staggering to his feet, Zaunas raised a war cry.
Compared to the many enemies he had faced on the battlefields, Leticia held overwhelming strength.
With minimal movements and the fastest attack— among the battles Zaunas had fought up until then, he now thrust forth, faster and stronger than he had ever done in his lifetime.
However, Leticia dodged with almost no movement.

Seeing that he had resolved to die, Leticia let loose a slash.
The blade approached his body.

He was satisfied he had crossed blades with the strongest opponent at the end of his life.

The man who had served the empire for four decades entrusted the duty to the next generation, and fell into a long sleep.[11]

“Sheathe your swords.”

It wasn’t a loud voice.
Nevertheless, the clear voice reverberated.
They were at the plaza in front of the castle gate.
The imperial guards and the insurgent knights faced off.
Relying on the firm gate, the imperial guards were pinned down by the coup d’état faction, but when they realized the magic sealing barrier had vanished, they advanced.
The insurgent knights who were inferior in magic and numbers, were at a disadvantage there in front of the palace.
Though each of the forces in the institutions were damaged, having been unable to take total control of the capital, they were headed for defeat.

In that moment, a single girl suddenly appeared between both sides.

Many eyes beheld the figure of Leticia the Brave.
The Brave who should still have been young and immature.
However, she emitted an intense presence.
By merely standing there, the place felt like an inviolable, sacred place.

“I have killed the ringleader of this incident, Zaunas, with my blade. I will permit no more bloodshed from this point on.”

“However, Brave-sama. They have pointed their blades at the empire. To overlook that—”

“Silence please!”

Leticia turned to face the imperial guard knight commander who who had spoken up.

“From this point on, anybody who wants to fight will have me as their opponent. Do both of you have the resolve?”

She slowly moved her gaze around.
Both sides were completely swallowed by Leticia’s presence.
Confirming that there were no more movements, Leticia gave a small sigh.

‘When we were small, the knights in the stories we read were champions of justice who defended the weak.’

However, in reality, storybook knights were not to be found.
Self-interested, those trampled over others without batting an eye were rampant, while the knights who sincerely worried for the country were dead.
And now, blood was shed in order to avenge them.

Leticia lifted her eyes from the insurgents, who had resigned and released their arms, and looked to the sky.
While thinking of Wynn, who was somewhere under this vast sky—

‘The knights of our dreams, where are they? Onii-chan…’

Leticia sorrowfully lamented in her heart.

AN: The next chapter is the epilogue of part 1
Cornelia and Jade’s circumstances will be shown next time.

Translator notes

1. If it confused you: Wynn would go to the capital, Locke would run and hide.–back
2. Classic Tsun phrase!–back
3. Don’t litter! It’s bad for life!–back
4. two weeks–back
5. What does he mean, “Even Wynn”? is it being derogatory towards plebeians?–back
6. so gallant, thinking about his girl.–back
7. So they were suicidal martyrs–back
8. Ten meter radius in original–back
9. etymology-wise, lithograph implies writing, but the raws literally wrote

stone plate–back

10. ukemi–back
11. Requiescat in pace. The bad guys die, and the good-ish guys sleep. Favoritism…–back

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Translator needs help

1. First person it all? maybe…–back
2. lost some of the structure… suggestions?–back
3. incomplete sentence: こ、こんなにも――。–back

This chapter was fun to translate… I hope you liked it! I think that now, when you roll over the footnote superscripts, the content will show up in the tooltip. Please test it out, since I don't have time today. Mobile may be able to see it with a tap and hold, not sure at all… My problem is that I can't remember if it was the alt attribute or the title attribute in an tag, and I don't have time right now to look it up… I used the title attribute…

One more chapter until this part ends. I will get to changing the TOC to say part, and not volume. I will take a week of rest after this volume is fully translated, during which I hope to try to make a nice, edited epub of part 1 (comment if you do prefer pdf). I will also look into the comment natsume posted on Chapter 19… Haven't had time to do that…

See you next week!

Chapter 22

GDoc here. Sorry for being late… Jade really was unbearable for the first half, but it paid off in the end… Enjoy!

Master of the Brave (Arc 1 Epilogue)

It was in the Cliffdorf estate at the imperial capital.

Many luxurious carriages were lined up before the gate, and from within them, noblemen all filed into the estate.
In the hall, an orchestra the marquis hired performed, while extravagant dishes and delicacies were served on a buffet table.
The table was also lavishly decorated with fresh flowers, giving off a resplendent image.
The dressed-up men and women engaged in small talk, and danced to the orchestra's music, as waiters moved among them, offering the guests wine and juice.

There was a banquet at the Cliffdorf residence.
They were celebrating the prevention of the coup d'état, and the captain of the knight order and the generals had arranged it.
At the center of the banquet hall.
There, Jade was surrounded by the nobles who were part of the Cliffdorf faction.

"Jade-dono, were you promoted for having saved Her Highness the Imperial Princess?"

"As expected of General Cliffdorf's son. The family is peerless."

"Truly so. Also, the empire is safe again."

Surrounded by the flattering smiles and comments of the nobles around him, Jade looked down at the glass of wine in his hand.

"No, no, I was able to rescue Her Highness the Imperial Princess, but I didn't liberate the capital. I have come to realize that I am powerless."

“In those circumstances, there was no way you could have done that. Rather, for even only having saved Her Highness the Imperial Princess, you deserve a substantial reward.”

Jade showed a relieved expression as the nobles surrounding him unanimously affirmed that statement.

“Since everybody is saying such things, I feel relieved from the bottom of my heart[1]. As I am still inexperienced, from now on, I will continue to respect everybody’s guidance.”

‘Those imbeciles!’

Contrary to his words and expression, Jade scorned the nobles in his mind.
‘Well, this imbecilic way of using flattery can still be used.’
At most, as they went around praising the Cliffdorf House, good rumours would also spread.
In this event, Jade was to be celebrated for having promptly rescued and sheltered the First Princess Cornelia Raul Cole Remulshil from the coup d’état faction.

“Not good, not good.”[2]

“Please calm down. Father.”

Jade frowned as he watched his father, Marquis Welt van Cliffdorf, on his feet, pacing back and forth.
They had successfully taken custody of Cornelia and were headed to the Cliffdorf’s vacation estate.
As they had summoned their knights to receive the princess, they received news that the coup was suppressed.

“Why!? They had occupied the fort. They activated the magic-sealing barrier.They would gain control of all of the empire’s institutions. Everything would have succeeded, but why did the coup fail?”

“Somehow, that Brave Mavis, intervened.”[3]

“The Brave intervened in a fight between humans!? Shouldn’t the Brave have been watched, or otherwise kept in check by the Seven-fold barrier formation? I

thought they had used a demon! That incompetent Zaunas!”[4]

It was Welt, though his subordinates, who had introduced the black-hooded demon to Zaunas, who had feared the Brave’s intervention. [5]
Trusting in his subordinates, and not knowing that Welt had intervened, Zaunas was manipulated into using the the demon’s Seven-fold Barrier Formation as the countermeasure to the Brave that he was searching for.
Of course, Zaunas needed enough determination to borrow the strength of his mortal enemies, the demons.
After hesitating for a while, he borrowed the power of the demon, in order to check the strength of the Brave, Leticia van Mavis.
However, they were still unable to seal her with that much.

“We stayed on the sidelines, knowing the insurgents were gathering an army! Furthermore, using Princess Cornelia, we would have an excuse to attack the capital!”

After the insurgents harmed the imperial family, he could say that he raised an army by using under Princess Cornelia’s banner.
But with only an excuse, the Cliffdorf House would lose influence.
However, unlike the impatient Welt, Jade wore a slight smile.

“That’s not it, Father. I had taken Princess Cornelia into our protection.”

“What are you saying?”

“They can’t prove that we had any advance information about the coup d’état. At any rate, the ringleader was the empire’s hero, Sir Zaunas. I was in the same group as the princess, secretly guarding the princess, and protected her from the insurgents. And then, we raised an army.”

“However, will Her Highness consent?”

“I guess so… Then we should hold a banquet.”

“Banquet?”

“That’s right. At the suggestion of Father, the Knight Order Commander, we will invite those who were meritorious.”

“You mean, Brave Mavis, too?”

“We had sheltered Her Highness Cornelia, and raised an army to liberate the capital, but the Brave had quelled the rebellion first. When we invite Brave Mavis to the banquet, you, Father, will congratulate her along with the Princess. This will give the other nobles, and the populace the impression that we, the Cliffdorf House, worked alongside the Brave.”

In the end, Welt approved of Jade’s plan and held a banquet.
Thanks to their prior knowledge of the coup, the nobles of the marquis faction, and those belonging to the military did not come to any real harm.
On the other hand, their rivals, especially the Reinhardt Marquisate, which had lost their eldest son, had been weakened.
In this incident, many influential people lost their lives.
Though it wasn’t the best outcome for the Cliffdorf marquisate, it was an acceptable outcome.
The only problem was to explain why the Cliffdorf House was the only faction who didn’t sustain any substantial harm.
Despite this, there would be no influential people in the other weakened factions who could pursue the matter.
But they still had to pay attention to this matter.
Inviting the Brave and the royalty to the banquet would the cement the perception of the Cliffdorf as the foundation of the empire.
Due to the subordinate nobles, they had skillfully manipulated the perceptions.
Jade took a sip of the wineglass that he was looking at, and then greeted the arriving nobles with a refreshing smile.

It wasn’t just the principal nobles, but the nobles of allied nations were also present—

“Oh! Your Highness!”

A loud voice echoed through the hall.
Everybody’s eyes moved to the entrance of the hall.
Smiling as he entered, it was the 11th generation Emperor of the Remulshil Empire, Alexei Raul Lute Remulshil.
His daughter, Cornelia accompanied him.
The organizer of the banquet, Welt, hastened to kneel down and bow before the two.

Taking that cue, the whole hall knelt down.

“It is our highest honour to receive Your Highness at our mansion.”

“Umu. It is because your son has helped Our[6] daughter. When the father of that hero invited us, We couldn’t not go.”

“I am delighted to hear such gracious words. I am sure that the Princess was also worried by this incident.”

“No… Thanks to the Marquis, I was not injured.”

Cornelia bowed.
She used her willpower to maintain her smile.

It was clear to Cornelia that they had tried to expand their influence using the coup d’état, but Marquis Cliffdorf persistently insisted that he merely intended to shelter the princess and raised an army to retake the capital.
The fact that all of the nobles of Marquis Cliffdorf’s faction returned to their territories during the revolt, while the nobles of their rival faction was harmed, was clearly unnatural, but nobody was able to pursue the matter.

“This evening, the people assembled here have rendered distinguished service. Please extend your thanks to them, Your Highness.”

“Is that so…”

Maintaining her smile, Cornelia wanted to immediately take her eyes off of this man.

“That is so. Let us leave these matters for later. You may all stand. You have taken great pains in preparing this banquet. You may all enjoy yourselves.”

Bowing once more at Alexei’s words, they all stood.
The hall became filled with sound.
Welt raised his hands, and the orchestra that had stopped playing when Alexei entered began playing again, filling the hall with music.
Welt nodded, satisfied, and turned towards Alexei and Cornelia.
Ignoring the plodding Welt, who continued to greet people, Cornelia quickly glanced around the room.
She had been told that Wynn and Locke survived, but since then, Cornelia,

having been shut inside the castle, was unable to meet them.
At the banquet, she had heard that many of the people who had played a big role were invited.
That was why, the ten or so students who survived the subjugation mission were invited, or so she heard.
In her group, apart from her, there were no more than four students who survived.
Though they should have been in that hall, but she couldn't see the figures of Wynn and Locke.
Before she knew it, Cornelia was surrounded by nobles coming to greet her one by one.
They wanted to make connections with the person who was second in line to the throne.
There were also nobles who introduced their sons to her.
Listening to those flowery words, in which their intentions were plainly visible, she struggled to maintain her deteriorating smile with all her will, while searching for a glimpse of those two through the gaps in the crowd.

"Hey, why are we here in a place like this?"

"Isn't it pretty much because we survived? At least you look fine, Locke. But with this being my first time, what should I do?"

"You ninny[7]. If you want to become a knight, experiencing this sort of place is a must, no? Well, did you think it was fine just to study diligently?"

The students that had survived the subjugation mission.

Including Wynn and Locke, four people from their group survived, but several students from the groups deployed to the fort also survived.
That was why they were invited to the banquet.
Though they were students, they were also nobles.
Only by obtaining the appropriate clothes, Locke was making acquaintances with the nobles.
Also, Locke was the son of a wealthy family.
Since he had experience with high society, he didn't feel out of place.
Wynn felt out of place, being the only one wearing the knight school uniform.

Of course, the uniform was worn for ceremonial purposes, so it didn't look strange in this place, but he stood out as the only one wearing it.
Unable to just let it be, Locke had arranged for clothes for him, but Wynn refused it, saying that the uniform was fine.

Now, he slightly regretted it.

At the beginning of the banquet, Locke also conversed with nobles he knew, and prominent merchants who were potential trade partners, whom Locke could not ignore, and exchanged greetings with them.
Left alone, Wynn had nobody to talk to.
In the end, there was nothing else Wynn could do other than reach for the food on the table.
However, since it was a banquet, he treated himself to the foods that he normally couldn't eat.
He smacked his lips as he ate.

"Poor peasants also have poor eating manners.Don't believe that you belong here."

While he was eating, somebody called out to Wynn, who was gazing at the dressed-up nobles.

"Jade…"

"Outside the school, it's Lord Cliffdorf to you. Well, since you're a commoner, I can disregard a little impoliteness."

Leading his lackeys closer, Jade made a faint smile.

"At any rate, so *you* also survived, huh."

"Cockroaches sure are tenacious…"

"If only for their resilience, they deserve some respect."

They pointed scornful gazes at him.
However, in that place, they were nobles.
Wynn stood upright without moving, and wordlessly received their words.

"The group that caused the coup, were a bunch of plebeian knights like you. Commoners who defend His Highness the Emperor, are a burden."

“It is as Jade-sama said.”

“As expected, an honourable job like knighthood should be given only to we of high nobility.”

Jade nodded in agreement at his follower’s words.

“That’s right. As Father has advised me, I have reported this to His Highness. Commoners really are just a liability.”

With a smirk, Jade and his lackeys turned their backs on Wynn.
Wynn remained standing upright, looking at their backs.
His face betrayed no emotions, but both his fists were tightly clenched.

Certainly, Instructor Aldo and the others did use violent actions to change the status quo.
However, who was the real cause of the problem?
Despite only foiling the coup d’état, they held this banquet without paying attention at all to the cause.
He understood Aldo’s and Sir Zaunas’s feelings

“Hmm? That’s…”

The departing Jade stopped in his tracks.
Before they knew it, the orchestra had stopped playing, and everybody’s eyes gathered on the entrance.
Wearing a simple, neat dress that was in no way gaudy, a girl had entered the room.
Though she hadn’t yet reached maturity, with her blond hair arranged, everybody let out a sigh upon seeing her divine beauty.
The attention everybody paid to their own country’s Emperor Alexei, and even Princess Cornelia, paled in comparison to that overwhelming presence.

It was Leticia van Mavis, the Brave.

She had entered with her Father, Duke Mavis, Lady Mavis, and also her siblings.
The whole ducal family moved towards Alexei, and knelt before him.
Among them, only Leticia remained standing, holding her dress in a slight curtsy.
Blessed by Goddess Anastasia, she was above the authority of humanity, and so

she need not bow to any king of a country.

“We are extremely sorry for being late. Good day, Your Highness.”

“It’s a banquet. Don’t be so formal, Duke Mavis.”

Alexei took Duke Mavis’s hand, and helped him up.

“It has been a while, Brave-dono.”

“You haven’t changed, Your Highness.”[8]

Leticia smiled.
Leticia then looked towards Cornelia and greeted her.
Cornelia also returned the greeting.

“This is, His Excellency Duke Mavis, and this is Brave-sama. Welcome to my estate.”

Shamelessly breaking into the conversation between the Emperor, the Ducal House, and the Brave’s conversation without minding the situation, Welt approached with his arms held out wide,

“Thanks to Brave-sama’s efforts, we were able to stop the lowly insurgents’ schemes. Well, we had also raised an army in the defense of His Highness and the capital, but thanks to Brave-sama’s swift action, we were only able to rescue Princess Cornelia. As expected of Brave-sama.”

“It will become another chapter in the legendary history of the Brave, Leticia van Mavis.”

“Apart from being the Brave who slew the Demon Lord, you are now also a patriotic Hero who saved the country.”

The other nobles who were looking on, added words of praise.
Acknowledging their words, Alexei once again turned to Leticia.

“Brave-dono. In appreciation of your deeds, I had wanted to reward you, but you already have status, so We cannot think of anything else we can give you. You have not changed your mind about marrying Prince Alfred, have you?”

“I am pleased that you value me highly, but…”

Leticia softly rejected the offer with a small bow.

Duke Mavis made a slight grimace, while Welt smiled.
If the Crown Prince and the Brave were engaged, then the royalty's influence would expand.
That ran counter to Welt's plans.
In the coup d'état incident, the Cliffdorf faction was able to control the central part of the Knight Order.
The imperial family was also trying to fulfill their duty in this incident, but the nobles of the anti-Cliffdorf faction had lost their influence.
After this, even the Imperial Family and the Duke couldn't easily oppose the power of the Cliffdorfs.
As Welt erased his smirk, Leticia and Alexei continued their conversation.

"Besides, the person who did the most work this time was not me. Somebody else was the one who accomplished the deed."

"Hou… If Brave-dono goes so far to say it like that, then We would like to greet that other person."

"That's right. I believe it is the right time for me to introduce him to Your Highness."

Leticia turned around. walking in front of Alexei.

'Hmm? A more distinguished person? Who is it?'

Welt, who was unable to conceal the smile of having obtained power, felt a tinge of doubt at Leticia's words.
Who was the person who had done more than the Brave, who had defeated Zaunas and stopped the battle between the knight order and the insurgents?
If this went awry, the Cliffdorf faction's influence would be diminished, and an obstacle might appear.
If that happened, then he would need to take measures against that person.[?1?]
Welt, who trailed behind Leticia and Alexei, was deep in thought.
The nobles stepped aside before Leticia, forming a path.
The nobles who had stepped aside followed the gazes of the Brave and their Emperor.
Among the several ecstatic young nobles, a plain-looking youth wearing a school uniform stood there with a bewildered expression on his face.

Dressed in beautiful garments, Leticia, followed by the Emperor, slowly walked towards Wynn.

‘Eh? Eh? What should I do? Should I kneel?’

He had seen Leticia when she entered the hall, but his childhood friend was instantly surrounded by nobles.
It felt like she and the Emperor with whom she talked were a world apart from him, the commoner.
Recently, he had avoided doing more than greet her, but he could not even approach her during this banquet setting.
The people around them, their gazes moved to the place the Emperor and the Brave were headed towards, but instantly, the crowd broke into a commotion as the people who were in their way moved aside, exposing Wynn, and also Jade and his lackeys, who were standing in front of him.
Leticia was leading the Emperor in this direction.

‘What should I do!?’

He reflexively cried out.
Going with the flow, Wynn probably should also step aside.
However, since he was originally at the edge of the room, there was nothing behind him other than the wall.
Leticia and His Highness shouldn’t have any business with a wall, and moreover, Leticia’s gaze was fixed straight at himself.
Locke, who he usually relied on for times like this, was not anywhere near him.

Wynn nervously looked backwards, and saw Jade and the others kneel down gracefully.
Flustered by their actions, Wynn also knelt down.

His heart beat furiously.
His face, on the other hand, grew pale as the blood drained from his face.
The Emperor, who held rights from the heavens, was approaching.
His whole body trembled.
He couldn’t bring himself to look forwards.
Apart from the Emperor, eminent nobles followed behind him.
Wynn heard the conversations of those nobles.

“Oh, is the distinguished person Brave-sama referred to my son, Jade? That is so. He has saved the Princess from the hands of those traitors.”

“So it’s Marquis Cliffdorf’s son. I have heard that he saved Our daughter, so We were also planning on giving him Our gratitude.”

Wynn could only tell from the presences he felt, but Leticia’s feet have stopped.
In front of her was Jade, who had knelt down.

“Jade. This Brave Mavis-sama. You should greet her.”

“It is nice to meet you. I am called Jade van Cliffdorf. It is an honour to attend the same school as you.”

“Nice to meet you too, Mister Cliffdorf.”

“It may be my parental bias speaking, but my ingenious son, upon hearing of the plot, immediately moved to rescue the princess. As a father, I am proud to have a son like that.”

“I hope that we will treat each other kindly from now on, Brave-sama.”

Until then, Jade had only looked upon Leticia from afar, but he became breathless at the beauty drawing near.
Though she was only fourteen, it was unimaginable how beautiful she would grow to become.[9]
Her slender, graceful body was covered by a simple dress. It was hard to believe that her body possessed the power to overwhelm a whole army.

Jade was exhilarated.
He was able to become her acquaintance. After growing closer, he would obtain her.[10]
Jade showed a tender smile, and looked up at Leticia.

However—

“Likewise. However, Lord Cliffdorf, would you mind getting out of the way?”

Leticia smiled for an instant at Jade, then instantly removed him from her sight.
That gaze was pointed at—

“… Brave-sama?”

Welt spoke out, bewildered.
The distinguished person she wanted to introduce was not his son?
Welt looked again at Leticia.
Flustered, Jade and his lackeys hurried to make way.
As the Brave and the Emperor walk on, the crowd who had held their breath broke into a commotion.
Leticia slowly walked forward towards a kneeling youth— and stopped in front of Wynn, then gently took his hand.

—”Who is that? Who’s he?”

—”That is the Knight School uniform. One of the survivors?”

—”However, it seems that he is not an aristocrat. Is he a commoner?”

Dubious voices were heard.

“Please stand up.”

At Leticia’s urging, Wynn stood.
The blood had completely drained from his face, and he looked pale.
Besides Leticia, who was standing in front of him, he was also unable to face Alexei, and could only let his gaze wander around.

As if dealing the finishing blow to the panicking Wynn, the whole hall was in an uproar.
Leticia had, without minding the wrinkling of her dress, knelt down.

The Brave, who was called “The existence closest to god,” did not bow to the head of a country, nor to a priest representing god.
That Brave had bowed down towards a commoner student.

Alexei, Duke Mavis, and Welt widened their eyes, speechless.

Jade also stared, dumbfounded.
The Brave had ignored him, and knelt respectfully before the commoner whom he so despised.
He couldn’t believe it.

‘What is happening? What kind of person is that commoner!?’

“Kukuku…”[11]

A small laugh broke out behind him.
Turning around, he saw Locke Marine, who was close to that commoner, standing there.

“Jade, the commoner whom you look down on is ‘The Master of the Brave,’ Wynn Byrd. ”

Locke whispered to Jade, and then chuckled.

‘The Master of the Brave… is it? That lowly commoner? That failure of a student?’

Before Jade’s eyes, was a commoner with a pathetic expression, on the verge of tears, unable to follow the course of events, scanning the surroundings.

That man showing a pathetic sight is—

While Jade’s thoughts halted from the disbelief, Leticia slowly looked up at Wynn.
The commotion gradually quieted, silence covered the hall, and only Leticia’s voice was heard.

“During this incident, due to the strength lent to me by my Master, I thank you as a student. My blade and journey was guided by you, Master. From now on, please guide this unworthy disciple.”

“Uh, no, umm…”

Unable to react to the circumstances, Wynn could only stammer, while Leticia looked up at him, smiling.
And then, Leticia turned around while kneeling.

“Your Highness. This esteemed person is my Master, Wynn Byrd.”

“.. This young man is?”

“During the incident, Master was the one who quickly disrupted the magic device at the fort, saving me from my predicament. He is the distinguished person who has done the most in this matter.”

“So that’s it. If that’s the case, We would like to offer you Our gratitude. Thank

you. So this is the Master that the Brave who slew the Demon Lord respects. What do you desire?”

Wynn was even more flustered by Alexei’s words. Reflexively. he once again scanned his surroundings searching for a way to escape.
Then, he met the gazes of Cornelia, who was standing behind the Emperor, and Locke, who stood among the crowd surrounding Jade.

Cornelia smiled, and nodded once.
Locke held his thumb up, grinning widely.[12]
Wynn soon calmed down.

In the blink of an eye[13], his face became filled with closing a firm resolution completely unlike his previous expression, and looked straight at Alexei.

“If I may be so presumptuous, towards Your Highness. In this incident, Sir Zaunas and the others anguished over the trajectory of this empire. In their anguish, the reason for their actions are unclear, so please investigate the cause of the incident.”

He spoke.

Though he was a commoner, as a Knight Cadet, he spoke without regarding social status.
He began to regret it.

“H-, h-, how rude of a statement!”

Red-faced, Welt raised his voice.

“How outrageous, for a mere commoner! Your Highness! Those words from one of low birth—”

“Are you insulting my Master?”

Interrupting Welt, who had begun to advise Alexei, Leticia stood up and glared at Welt.
Welt, overwhelmed by the glint in her eyes, stepped back.

“Your Highness. As Master said, the root of this problem is deep. We should make it clear who bears responsibility for this with a thorough investigation.”

Welt felt Leticia's withering gaze.
Everybody was overwhelmed by the presence she emitted.
Even Alexei was overwhelmed.

"Br-, so Brave-dono agrees with your Master's words."

"Also, Sir Marquis, you should not have done that, the mood is now ruined. Please, let the feast continue, everybody."[?2?]

At Leticia's words, the hall awkwardly returned to a buzz.
The orchestra also began to play some slow music.
Welt was still dumbfounded, but eventually scurried away.
He was probably formulating a plan for the future.
Sending him off with a pointed glare, Leticia turned back to Wynn.

"Thanks for your hard work, Onii-chan."

"Leti… Y-, you wha…"

At Wynn's weak protest, Leticia stuck her tongue out with an impish smile.

"For you to lead His Highness, and that those remarks just now. I thought my heart stopped."

"It was revenge, Onii-chan. Haven't you been avoiding me recently?"

"No… that's… well, Leti is the Brave, and a Duke's daughter, while I was a commoner."

"Mou, It's fine not to mind such things right?"

Locke wove through the crowd and approached.

"You now know that you have the title 'The Master of the Brave.' Why should you be so reserved? "

"That's right."

Cornelia also called out from behind her father, Alexei, and walked towards Wynn.

"Wynn, Locke, It's good that you're alright."`

"Your Highness…"

“Stop with the ‘Your Highness.’ Call me Cornelia.”

Cornelia smiled wryly at Wynn and Locke, who were about to kneel.

“What, you can’t believe I am the princess?!”

“Well, I thought you were the daughter of some noble, but I didn’t think you could be the Princess. Why are you at the Knight School?”

“I’ll tell you about that another day. Right now is Brave Mavis’s turn. Thanks to you, I was saved. I truly thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

“No, I was just doing what I wanted to do.”

Leticia smiled at Cornelia.

“We really stand out… I’m just an extra here.”

The Master of the Brave was also on good terms with the princess.
It wasn’t like the intense attention from before, but everybody’s gazes were collected there.

Before they knew it, Leticia had taken Wynn’s arm, and approached the food table.
Locke smiled wryly, seeing the commotion erupt once again, as the Brave fed Wynn the dishes.
Casually, he spoke to Cornelia next to him.
Though she had a pleasant smile on her face, if one looked closer, envy could be seen in her gaze.

‘I see, there will be big trouble later on, my friend.’

Locke let out a small sigh.

Before, when Wynn’s name was revealed, not many people were present.
Being highly classified information, the existence of the Master of the Brave was merely a rumor in the public.
But now, in front of a crowd, Leticia, the Brave, had personally bowed to Wynn, announcing his existence as the Master.

From then on, his surroundings would become noisy.
He had much influence — through the Brave— and they would definitely approach.

How much hardship will the yet naive Wynn face as he advances down his path?

‘The person himself just wants to become a knight.’

But from now in, everybody would see him as “The Master of the Brave.”
To his friends, and other people, how will his power help them?[?3?]
Then. as he walks on, what can we expect from in the future?

‘Either way, it will be interesting!’

Leticia led Wynn around, as the bewildered crowd gradually looked on with pleasant smiles, while thinking of the enjoyable future ahead.
Locke would be able to see it from up close.

The story of a failure of a knight cadet who walks on as “The Master of the Brave”.

AN: Now, the first part is finished. Thanks for reading until now.
Please wait as I write the second part.

Translator notes

1. you don’t have to reach that far for the bottom…–back
2. This is a flashback.–back
3. I don’t really like it, but Brave is now used as a title…–back
4. sitting back and watching people fight again…–back
5. In the raw, it is unclear whose subordinates they are, but it might be corrupted subordinates officially under Zaunas–back
6. royal we–back
7. chose an exotic(to me) synonym, affectionate connotation of baka, unlike Jade’s previous use, translated to imbecile–back
8. I assume this is standard Japanese formality…–back
9. I’m starting to suspect a lolicon author, and nobles, here…–back
10. Is this how galges work? “Obtain her?” This is the theme of escape galge right?–back
11. For the inexperienced, this is a laugh sfx–back
12. Locke, you wingman…–back
13. or maybe with just closing his eyes to calm down?–back

Translator needs help

1. “Person who has rendered distinguished service” is clunky… need synonym, since it is used so much…–back
2. not sure…–back
3. wording–back

Next Chapter

First Arc finally done!!! I will be taking a week off from translation to recover. Sorry for being late, I was busy IRL, and Jade’s scheming still wears me down a lot… I’m not sure if it was just fatigue, but I also had a lot of trouble with some of the sentences… Luckily, Deus Ex Machina, my editor, helped give a second opinion with most of those sentences.

See you in a week!

Chapter 23

GDoc <-there. Sorry for being late. I will try to get into a more regular schedule. Not yet edited, but not atrocious eye cancer, I think.

Arc 2 Prologue

Locke must have been really exhausted.

Dropping onto his bed after returning to his dorm, he slipped under the covers, and instantly let go of his consciousness.
If Locke had noticed, he would have realized that it was the time Wynn normally woke up.
The sky outside the window was still dark, but the whole sky was filled with stars.

There would also be fine weather today.

Setting his eyes on the neighboring bed, Locke also fell asleep in the very clothes he wore to the banquet.
How many months worth of Wynn's wages did the suit cost?
No, rather, it might be on the scale of years.
The Marine House possessed that much wealth.
Though he was not the successor, he couldn't present himself to the Emperor in shabby clothing.

Did it get creased?

Only having taken off his coat[?1?], Locke lay fast asleep.[?2?]
Wynn let out a small sigh.
Then, his eyes moved down to his own garments, and he frowned.

"… Whoa, I accidentally did it," he murmured.
He had slept in his school uniform.
It was natural, since he had no recollection of changing his clothes.

He didn't straighten them out afterwards.[?3?]

First, he took of his clothes and changed to his normal clothes.
Then, he took his practice sword, stepped silently so as to not wake Locke up, opened the door to the room, and stepped into the empty hallway.
After he went outside, he washed his face in the communal fountain.
All of the drowsiness left him when he felt the stinging cold water and the brisk dawn atmosphere.

As he used the towel around his neck to wipe his face, his stiff joints slowly relaxed.

"Okay, let's go!"

Since there was the banquet yesterday, he wasn't able to go training.
That's why he would put even more effort today.
As always, he greeted the sentries who guarded the school entrance though the night.
He ran down the dim and yet empty main street.
His destination was Wandering Bird's Mistletoe Pavilion.[1]
It was far enough from the knight school to be a good warm-up.
With light steps, Wynn slowly — it would be quite fast to anybody who watched — began running.

Once he filled the barrel at the back of the Wandering Bird's Mistletoe Pavilion to the brim with water, he began washing the vegetables.
Potatoes, carrots, daikons[2], he washed them all thoroughly, while thinking back to the food he ate at the banquet.

Soft, freshly-baked bread.
White fish soup with a rich flavor.[3]
A salad with fresh vegetables and thinly sliced ham.
Tender beef that melted in the mouth.
Magically refrigerated rose water, and freshly squeezed fruit juice.

He would probably never taste it again.

Though he had eaten, just by thinking about it, his mouth watered, and he felt hungry.[4]
After he washed the vegetables while enduring it, he proceeded to deftly wipe the tables and sweep the floor.
At that time, the boss, Randell, and his wife, Hannah, also woke up.

Wynn had permission from them to enter and leave through the back door.
He grabbed the sword leaning against the wall.
He took a deep breath, then exhaled.

He held an image inside his head.

First, he swung the sword once.
He started slowly, then gradually got faster.

During the coup d'état incident, Wynn had killed a person for the first time.[5]
While magic power was sealed, alone against many opponents Aldo, the senior knights, the soldiers, all swung swords, brandished spears, or shot arrows. He could see the trajectories of the weapons.
He could see the trajectories of his opponent's blades during the practice matches, but against more advanced opponents, he couldn't receive the blows, and was blown away many times.
However, while their magic power was mutually sealed, he was able to perceive the attacks, and evade or block them.

'I became strong.'

He felt that for the first time.
Now, he imagined Leticia's blade.
He was able to perceive her intense intimidation and the path of her blade.
Her slashes were faster and more pointed than the knights when he crossed swords with her.
He imagined Leticia's strikes gradually get faster, until he couldn't match her anymore.

"Kuh…"

He somehow avoided the last blow aimed at the head, but it destroyed his stance, and he fell to the ground.[6]

'Strong, huh…'

Leticia was strong, more than he could imagine.
Compared to four years ago, just from the one match they had when they met again, he could tell that she was much stronger.
For one, while he could try to see the path of the blade, there was no time to react to it.
Moreover, when they met again. Leticia hadn't been serious.
At the moment they crossed swords, Wynn knew he would lose.
Unable to brace his legs, he was blown away.
Otherwise, he would have been cut by the blade.

From the stories of those who saw the duel between the Hero Zaunas, and Leticia, the difference in strength was as big the difference between an adult and a child.

He lay on the ground.

The cool ground felt good to his drenched, burning body.
The sky was beginning to brighten, and birds began to chirp as they flew through the air.

Wynn lay face-up on the ground, watching the sky brighten up.
Not only Leticia, but if he also planned to beat other opponents using magic strengthening, he couldn't just kill without crossing swords.
However, at that time, he reached the point that he was able to follow her sword.
Leticia stood at a distant, high place far, far away, but Wynn still felt happy that she had become strong.

"Okay, preparations complete!"[7]

The second son of the Wandering Bird's Mistletoe, Abel, inspected the parcel that he had bought yesterday, and picked up a brand new one-handed sword.
He slowly drew it from its scabbard, and stared motionlessly at the shimmering blade, which had never been used.

Yesterday, he was invited to an adventurer's party for the first time.

Though he was hit by his father Randell, he often visited the Adventurer Guild to take simple requests such as collecting wild herbs, chasing away wild animals and monsters which damaged the fields, and other manual labour.
Recognizing his accomplishments, a senior adventurer that he was close with invited him to their party since they had a vacancy.
Their task was to subjugate a bandit group attacking villages near the border.
It was a mission taken in conjunction with other parties.

He couldn't stop grinning.

"Kukuku…. Fu, fufufu, Ahahahaha!"[8]

He couldn't hold it back, and ended up laughing out loud.

He felt elated.

Up until then, he had received only menial requests, but this time, he was going to be a member of another party.
Joining a party was a rite of passage for adventurers.

Abel had taken the first step in fulfilling his dream of becoming an adventurer.

He returned the sword to its sheath, and donned brand-new leather armour.
He gagged a bit at the characteristic odor of leather, but held it in.
He was to meet with his comrades exactly at noon.

“Ah, My body is trembling a lot!”

Unable to just stand still, he left his room, and moved to the back of the building.

“Hmm?”

He recognized the boy laying face-up on the ground.

Hey, that’s Wynn isn’t it!

To Abel, he was more than just an employee of the restaurant.

“Oh? Abel? What is it? You look happy.”

Abel puffed out his chest, as Wynn stayed on the ground, merely turning his head towards him.

“I became an adventurer!”

“Adventurer!? You did?”

“Yeah, that’s right. Today at noon, I will be going with a party to complete a request.”

“Good, so Randell-san let you.”

Wynn raised just his upper body, and thought of Randell, Abel’s father, and the proprietor of the inn.
When he ran away from work, saying “I want to become an adventurer,”
Randell’s fist fell onto his head.
Since the older brother Mark was a better successor to the inn, Randell was unable to hide his irritation at the younger brother Abel’s earnest aspiration, but

he may have changed his mind.[9]

“The old man[10] has nothing to do with this! I will become an adventurer with my own power!”

“Eh? So Randell-san doesn’t know about it?”

Abel’s expression instantly hardened.

“I am joining the party and becoming an adventurer. I’m not following that old man’s orders anymore. Unlike a knight cadet like you, I am now an independent adult.”

To Abel, since Wynn was close in age to him, he was an existence that couldn’t be ignored.
While Abel played around his brother Mark, Wynn only mutely[11] worked as an employee of the inn.
Mark and Abel ordered Wynn, who lived in a small shed behind the inn, around for the smallest things, treating him like a servant.
That was until a single girl started following him around one day.
Abel was conscious of the girl named Leti, who was prettier than other girls, and his heart leapt at a glimpse of her.

It was love at first sight.

Though they played together, Leti never left Wynn’s side and stuck to him.
He got angry at Wynn, and pushed various chores onto him, but even then, Wynn wordlessly, without complaint, did the work.
Soon, Abel realized that Wynn had a different worldview than the others.

He wanted to become a knight.

That the dream that Wynn, who swung his wooden stick, had.
At first, Abel thought that he was foolish.
What was this servant-like commoner orphan saying?
His father Randell more or less understood Wynn’s dreams, but his mother Hannah thought that if he had the time and energy to swing a stick around, he should use it for work.
Even then, Wynn never gave up.
If there is no time for it during work, then he just had to wake up earlier.

He took his time when drawing water, holding buckets in both hands to decrease the number of round trips he had to make.
Abel woke up every morning to see Wynn, finished with drawing water and even peeling the vegetables, wholeheartedly swinging the stick.
Moreover, understanding that he didn't have enough money to pay the enrollment fee for the knight school, and ended up going to the adventurer guild in his free time.
Since adventurers fulfilled requests day and night, the guild was also open all day.
That day, Abel heart that Wynn took a job from the adventurer guild, and secretly took a peek.
He saw a boy younger than him taking up a request with adult adventurers.
Unlike Abel, who was treated like a child, seeing Wynn be treated like a mature grown-up was dazzling.
Until then, Abel had not thought about his future.
His elder brother would succeed the inn.
He would work under a merchant house, and eventually marry and run an independent household.
That was what he thought he would do.
However, Abel admired Wynn, who worked with grown-up adventurers.

'I will become an adventurer.'

He couldn't accept that despite having the status of a servant, Wynn was treated as an equal by adventurers older than himself.
That was why he saw becoming an adventurer as a triumph.

"With the attempted coup, the empire's knights have a bright future ahead of them, don't they? Because of that, the knight school is temporarily closed isn't it? When are you ever going to become a knight?"

"Hmm, when will I become a knight, huh?"

Wynn muttered with an unusually weak tone.
The knight school was closed while knights who sympathised with the principal, Zaunas, awaited punishment.
Many of the instructors were included.
On one side, some were suggesting increasing the limit on the number successful

applicants since the number of knights had dropped, while others suggested that commoners should not be promoted as knights since most of the insurgents were commoners.
If they decided to prevent commoners from becoming knights, Wynn's dream would end there.
Unlike Wynn, who was despondently thinking about how he may not achieve his dream, Abel happily drew his newly bought sword.

"How is it! See it? Behold this sword! Even though it looks like this, it can cut three demonic beasts you know?"

He wore a proud expression on his face.
Wynn was lost in thought, merely gazing at at Abel as he swung his sword around.

"That's right! You have a practice sword right? Let's have a match!"

Saying this, he suddenly pointed the sword at Wynn.

"Is it fine? What about injuries?"

"It is not a duel.[?4?] Do you not have practice opponents since the school closed down? I'll practice with you. Let's go.[?5?]"

"I'm not interested."

"Wouldn't it be bad for a grown-up adventurer to go all out and beat a knight cadet student? I'll make the blows light."

"If you're going that far, then…"

Finally, Wynn slowly reached for his sword, and Abel chuckled.
He would beat Wynn with the swordplay of a full-fledged adventurer.
He had decided that he was superior to servants like Wynn.[12]

"Okay, let's go!"

Though he said that it wasn't a duel, he had swung the sword, intending to injure him.
However,

"Onii-chan?"

He suddenly heard a dearly missed voice.

It was Abel's first love, now grown up, and sporting a smile.[13]

Translator notes

1. This is a more correct name for Wataridori Pavilion. I will try to go back and edit Wataridori out later. literally: Migratory Bird's Mistletoe Pavilion–back
2. Radish-like. google it… A daikon literally means large root…–back
3. Some translators add images, but… here's the raw: 丁寧にダシを取った白身魚の濃厚なスープ。–back
4. Translating during lunch avoids much envy…–back
5. Is it coincidence that this "kill" in Japanese is "Kiru"–back
6. Is this real? is this just fantasy?–back
7. Abel's POV–back
8. I do believe this is a three stage laughter… See Tensei Slime (currently being translated by Guro)–back
9. kinda Wynn's POV, this sentence–back
10. I think sometimes people call their fathers "old man", maybe use "Pops"?–back
11. Seems to have connotations of silent in a dumb way…–back
12. …What?–back
13. Leti just saved Abel… from the frying pan, at least…–back

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Translator needs help

1. blazer?–back
2. a lot of redundancy?–back
3. ???–back
4. ???–back
5. ???–back

Sorry for being late! As I said above, I hope to get back into a weekly schedule,

but I’m not sure if I can get to it. A high energy state of translator is harder to maintain than the low energy state of leecher… Also applicable: SMBC…

I picked Black Knight who was Stronger than the Hero (aka: KuroKishi, KK) at Xant’s place. Please enjoy the two chapters I have released, or read the whole thing from the start if you haven’t read it at all.

I have chapter 5 (The one clover-SK worked on) editted by a new (second) editor on the team: Dogboy90. Welcome, Dogboy90!

Chapter 24

GDoc here. Enjoy!

Childhood Friend

(AN: It was hard to find a stopping point, so the chapter is a little short. Sorry.)

“Huh? Leti?”

Wynn lowered the practice sword he was about to use in the duel, and called out to Leti.

“Good morning, Onii-chan.”

“Good morning. Why did you come here so early in the morning?”

“I just happened to wake up now…”

Leticia looked around the backyard of the Wandering Bird’s Mistletoe with faint nostalgia in her eyes.

“In this place, four years ago, I beat Onii-chan for the first time… It has been a long time.[1]”

There was a barrel used to hold water.
Everyday, she would fill that barrel with Wynn, going back and forth between the barrel and the well.
There was a bucket and cart used to dry the laundry, and also bring firewood and charcoal for the stove and fireplace.
Beside it, was a small, shabby shed.
That was where Wynn lived before he entered school.[2]
Overcome by nostalgia, Leticia moved towards the shed.
She could see that that the wooden shed walls had received tremendous damage.
Leticia touched it with her right hand.

As she ran her hand along it, the grime on it crumbled and fell off.
She could see traces of repairs all over the wall.
The young Wynn had made thos repairs himself using scraps of wood.
The storage shed would not have been able to endure the wind and rain if he hadn't repaired it.
However, his repairs did not completely prevent water from leaking through when it rained.

During her younger days, Leticia would often sneak away from home, enter this storage shed, and slip into Wynn's bed.
Though the scraps of wood could not completely block out the cold wind, it was warm under the crude blanket.[3]
Under the thin sheet was a mattress that he borrowed from a stable. That was the makeshift bed Wynn made to avoid the feeling of the cold wooden floor.

It truly was a shabby bed.

However, Leticia felt that it was warmer than the bed in her own room.
There was a soft and warm bed in her room at Duke Mavis's estate.
It should have been better, since it was softer than Wynn's bed.
However, Leticia was treated as a nuisance by her family, and was treated rudely by the servants.
In this storage shed, she could sleep more peacefully than she ever could in that estate.
It gave the lonely Leticia warmth.
There were many times where the movements she made as she slept would wake Wynn up.
Wynn would be troubled, but that delighted face was so loveable—

"Umm…"

Leticia's face grew hot from thinking about that time, as the boy that was with Wynn addressed her.

"It has been a while, hasn't it?"

More than Leticia's flushed face, Abel, blushing vigorously, stood in front of her.

“How many years has it been? I heard you went somewhere far away, but you came back to the capital.”

Leticia tilted her head in confusion.
She glanced at Wynn with a troubled look.

“It’s Abel. He is the youngest son of the innkeeper.”

Upon seeing Leticia becoming troubled from being unable to remember the boy, Wynn sent her a lifeline.

“Ah! Umm, it has been a while…”

“Did you remember me?”

Though his smile cramped up upon the unexpected reality that he was forgotten, Abel tried to maintain his smile.
Meanwhile, Leticia eyed him with caution.
In her memory, the two boys from the Wandering Bird’s Mistletoe were a nuisance to her playtime with Wynn, hiding her books and teasing her to the point of tears.

She instinctively raised her guard.

Abel, delighted that he had reunited with his first love after four years, didn’t notice Leticia’s demeanor.
As a child, she was already an unmatched beauty. After four years, she became comparable to a goddess.[4]
Especially her emerald green eyes.[?1?]
He gazed at Leticia —who was on her guard— and his spirits soared.

“After you left on your journey, I became an adventurer,” said Abel passionately.

“Speaking of, Leti also worked as an adventurer, right? With Wynn.”

“Yes.”

“Will you also do that today?”

“We didn’t plan to today… but we might.”

She looked at Wynn with a questioning expression.

If Wynn was still doing requests as an adventurer, then Leticia would definitely follow.

“Then, this time, won’t you come with me?”

Blind to Leticia’s expression, he once again drew his sword to show her.
The brand-new blade glistened in the sunlight as he raised it.

“Whether it be escorting a merchant, or exterminating bandits, it will be fine. I learned how to use the sword from a senior adventurer at the guild, so it will be fine, even if we’re attacked. It’s not like the fencing they teach in the knight school. It is a swordsmanship tempered by live combat.”

Abel swung the sword as he was taught at the Adventurer’s Guild.

“This will allow me to cut down as many monsters as I can, so you don’t have to worry. I will show you that I can protect you.”[5]

“…Just before, didn’t you say that it could cut down only three monsters?”

Wynn reflexively interjected in a small voice.
Abel looked over at Wynn, who was standing idly behind him.

“Well, I also invited Wynn. Money is important, right? Watch me fight the monsters. When they charge, I’ll just dodge, then slash them. The tension is unbearable!”[?2?]

Ignoring Wynn’s interjection, Abel once again swung his sword with large motions.
This time, he held a shield.

Bewildered by the elated Abel mimicking the movements of defeating a monster, Leticia looked towards Wynn, pleading for help.
On the other hand, Wynn was thinking about what to do.
They were about to have a mock battle, but upon Leticia’s appearance, Wynn was forgotten, and now, Abel was passionately miming a battle against a demonic beast.

There was nothing but bewilderment.

The two people’s perplexed gazes met.
Suddenly, Leticia’s gaze fixed onto one part of his body.

“Onii-chan, is that mud in your hair?”

It must have stuck on while he was laying on the ground.

Leticia stepped towards Wynn, while giving a sidelong glance at Abel, who continued his skit.

“—and then, I slashed like this! My battle form must have been so excellent. I’m in high demand at the adventurer guild. So please, by all means, come with me as I join the par…ty…”

After he finished slaying the imaginary monster, Abel slowly returned his sword to its scabbard.
Then, he triumphantly turned towards Leticia, and— was at a loss for words.

“Onii-chan, let me do it.”

“It’s okay, I can do it.”

“It’s fine. Don’t move.”

Wynn was backing away from the approaching Leticia; however, Leticia stepped even closer as her hands reached for his head.
The brisk wind picked up Leticia’s soft, long hair, tickling Wynn’s right arm.

It smelled somewhat sweet.

Since Leticia was brushing off the dirt on the back of his head from the front, Wynn felt Leticia’s soft bulges on his body.[6]
Leticia either didn’t notice, or didn’t mind it, as she brushed the dirt off his head.

“Yep, I got it.”

“Th-thanks.”

Wynn scratched his cheek with his right index finger to hide his embarrassment.
Leticia smiled, looking up at Wynn.
Wynn blushed slightly and averted his eyes from Leticia as her smile became illuminated by the rising sun.

“Hey. Wynn.”

Abel came back to his senses after that passionate scene of ignoring him, and

bellowed at Wynn.

“You. Me. Duel.”[7]

“Wait a minute, Abel, your eyes are scary!? Didn’t you say it wasn’t a duel before?”

“Shut up! Quiet!” Abel shouted angrily.

Wynn reflexively pulled back.
The current Abel was being overbearing.
Even Leticia, the Brave, reflexively clung to Wynn’s right arm.[8]

“It’s fine, draw your sword! Duel me!”[9]

Ever since she was young, Leti always clung to Wynn.
Even his father, Randell, and the adventurers at the guild, would always support Wynn more.

Even now, he would hear the Guildmaster and the seasoned adventurers say:

—”Has that brat become a knight? Oh, not yet? But if it’s Wynn, he can do anything.”

Even the top-class adventurers didn’t have the slightest doubt that Wynn would become a knight.
Though he was younger than Abel, he worked as an Adventurer, a few years ago.
Doubtlessly, Abel should have been valued more than him by now.

It was frustrating!

The girl he loved, the Adventurers he desired to be like, everyone acknowledged Wynn.
Why was Wynn, who hadn’t become a knight, more acknowledged than he was?
‘Then, I will show her my amazingness by killing a monster.’

“It can’t be helped.”

Wynn gently pushed Leticia’s shoulder back.
He slowly grasped the practice sword.

“Here I come, you jerk!”

Abel, shield in hand, leapt at Wynn.

In the end, he rushed towards Wynn, and when he realized it, the tip of Wynn's blade was already pointed at his nose.

Without a doubt, Abel, was thoroughly defeated.[10]

Translator notes

1. I feel a sort of petty grudge over the fact that she used magic that final time (arguably not cheating), but since it was to force the sword into Wynn's hands…–back
2. Is Wynn like a male Cinderella?–back
3. lewd… (/ /•/ω/•/ /)–back
4. Rather liberal translation, literally: She had been pretty beautiful when she was young, but four years had enhanced her beauty.–back
5. It would be so much more fun to see Wynn and Leti spar in front of him, than to see Able get beaten down by one of them… but…–back
6. not lewd… not lewd at all… Double standards!–back
7. That's the gist of it…–back
8. Unintentional pun in English?–back
9. Dang it… no Leti vs. Wynn this time…–back
10. Four lines to describe a battle… Compared to a normal fight scene, this is just how fast Wynn is… lol–back

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Translator needs help

1. Sentence fragment–back
2. missing a ref of a shield–back

Next Chapter

Hi! Elephant No. 5 here! I forgot to announce last chapter some things that I announced in the KK21 post (it didn't show up on NU, but that doesn't matter anymore.) I will not have time to make an epub or pdf right now. Maybe winter break, if I can motivate myself, but as of right now, that plan is cancelled. Sorry. (*_ _)人 (these types of emojis(kaomojis) are so much more creative than the

automated ones. They're pretty much one line ASCII art…)

I am trying to translate Chapter 25 without Translation Aggregator, just to force myself to learn more of the kanji, so it may be delayed. You have been warned. As far as I can tell, the beginning does not directly continue with the ending to this chapter (see random question 1).

Random Questions

- Is it still a cliffhanger if it's the antagonist who is figuratively hanging off the cliff?
- The reason for an argument or conflict is a difference in perspective/opinion.

  Q: How many Psychiatrists does it take to change a light bulb?

  A: Only one, but the bulb has got to really WANT to change.

So how does one convince somebody who doesn't want to change? How can one negotiate rather than argue?

Ignore this unless you are the recipient:(Pregunta di tanyakin untuk elephantNo.6(弟弟))

I know I'm seeking advice from the internet… It's kinda like writing a rigorous research paper solely using Wikipedia articles… But still, the internet may have answers, I just have to evaluate them. Also, this question is solved, we could bring world peace to the internet and end most non-troll-induced internet arguments. That would be utopia!

- ~~Is there anybody willing to send me HataMaou LN Vol 10 pdf to my email (elephantno5.mdoc@gmail.com)? I'm too lazy to put in the effort to follow the riddle trail on mittens_220's site, and I missed the chance to download that one… I have all the others so far though…~~
  - ~~The first to send me the email will have my gratitude.~~
  - Somebody has sent it to me. Thanks for all who did!

Glossary

For mine and anybody else's reference when translating. Anybody is welcome to suggest changes below.

Characters

Japanese	English
ウィン・バード	Wynn Byrd
レティシア・ヴァン・メイヴィス	Leticia van Mavis
ロック・マリーン	Locke Marine
コーネリア	Cornelia
ジェイド・ヴァン・クライフドルフ	Jade van Cliffdorf
アルド	Aldo
ラウル・オルト・リヨン,『剣聖』	Raúl Holt Leon, Sword Saint
ティアラ・スキュルス・ヴェルファ,『大賢者』	Tiara Belfa, Great Sage
リアラ・セイン,『聖女』	Liara Sayn , Holy Woman
暁の女神アナスタシア	Dawn Goddess Anastasia
ナジェル	Nigel
イルス	Irusu ?

Places

Japanese	English
アルファーナ大陸	Alfana Continent
レムルシル帝国	Remulshil Empire
『渡り鳥の宿り木亭』	Wataridori Pavillion (Migratory Bird Pavillion)
シムルグ騎士学校	Simurgh Knight School(Also the name of the imperial capital)

Magic

Japanese	English
付与魔法	Enhancement magic